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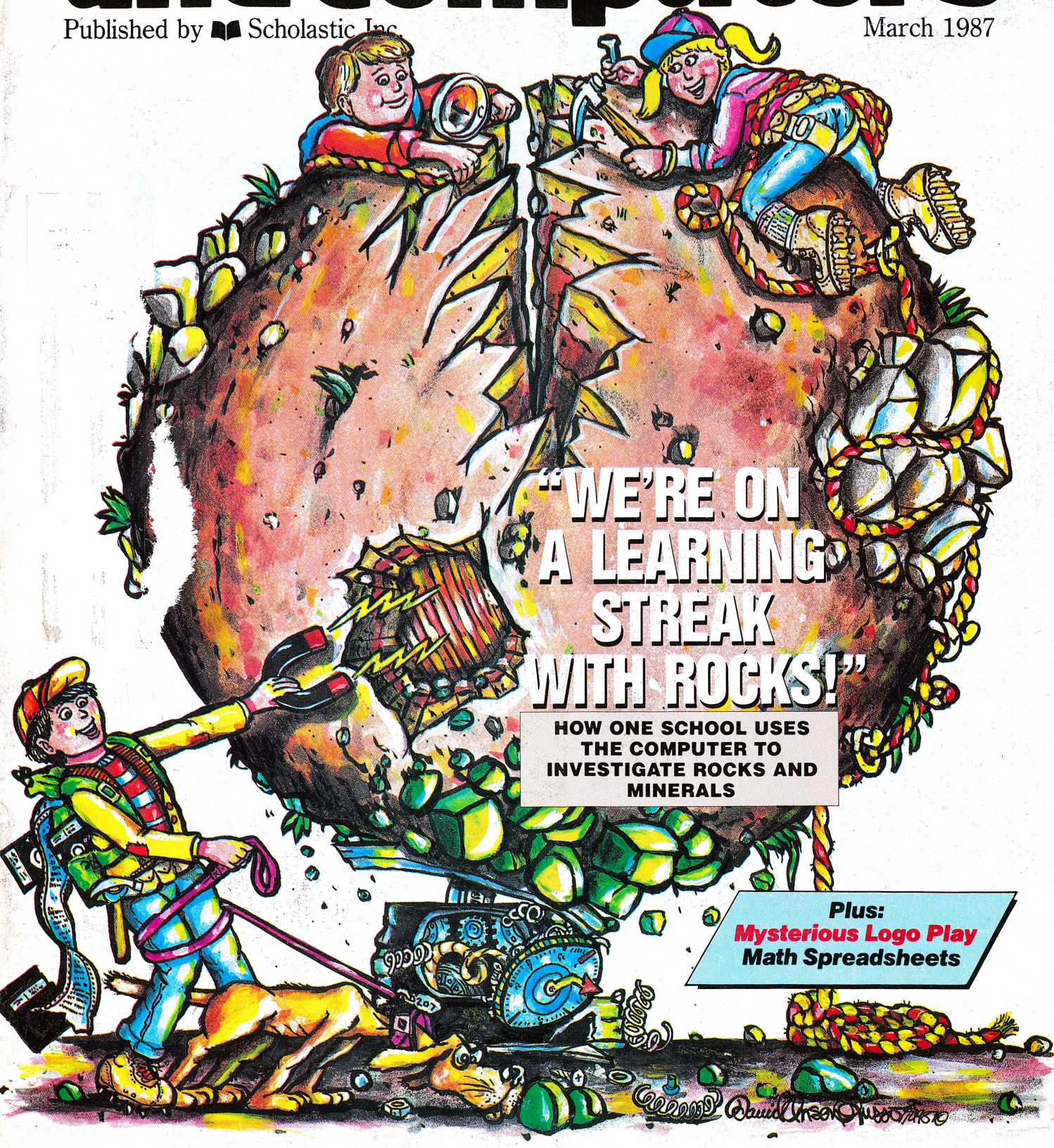
Scholastic's Magazine for Today's Elementary Classrooms

TEACHING and computers™

Published by Scholastic Inc. March 1987



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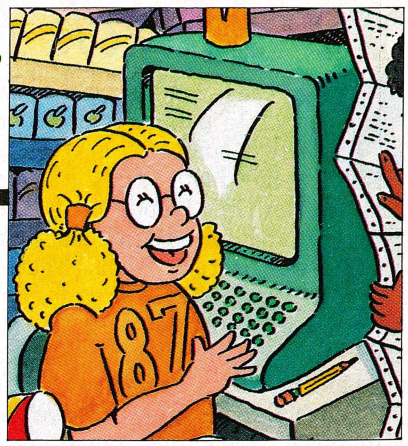
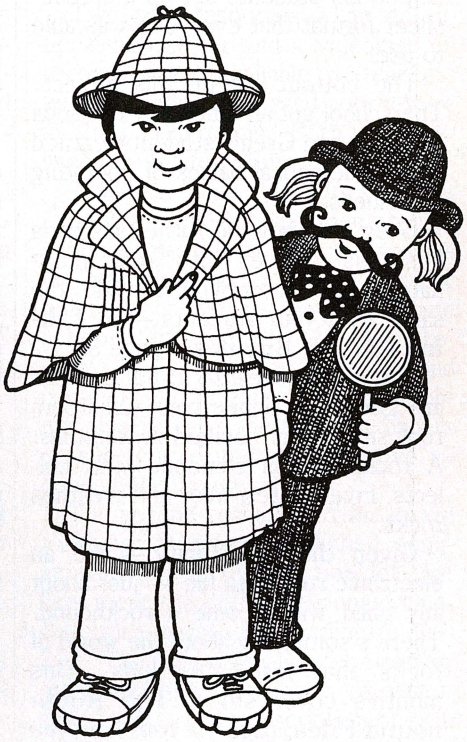


33 There's no business like soda business!



16 Looking for clues. . .

FEATURES:

10 The Rockhound Files
Get in on the ground floor of modern science instruction — help your class set up a data file on rocks! Kids can use it to learn geology concepts as well as to develop skill in scientific observation and evaluation.

16 The Mystery of Megan Watt
What has happened to computer whiz Megan Watt? The COMPUTER knows! Or does it? Find out when your class performs this humorous two-act play.

33 Taking Care of Business
If you give kids the business (the school's soda machine business, that is) — plus spreadsheet, word processing, and graphing software — big gains will result.

CLASSROOM MATERIALS:

21 T&C's Poster
"Three Types of Software Disks."

21 T&C's Poster Worksheets
Four reproducible worksheets on different kinds of software. Worksheet answers are on page 45.

38 Writer's Corner
Word processing task cards that teach young writers about plot structure.

COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS:

3 Update
News for computer-using teachers.

4 Classroom Happenings
What's happening in computer classrooms.

6 Bookshelf
Books that provide computer literacy activities.

42 Micro Ideas
Quick computer tips and activities.

46 First Steps
Activities for introducing the special function keys to primary grade children.

48 Software Showcase
Software selected for teachers, by teachers.

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY: DAVID ANSON RUSSO

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FROM THE EDITOR

March Highlights

Soda cans and spreadsheets? They're a perfect combination when it comes to developing real-life math skills! That's what teacher Greg Woods discovered when he and his special education students at Horace Mann Middle School in West Allis, Wisconsin, decided to use an electronic spreadsheet to manage the school's soda machine business.

Though Greg's students have instructional levels that range from second through fifth grade, Greg helped his students set up a spreadsheet format that everyone was able to use.

The bottom line on this project? The school got an efficiently run soda business and Greg's students learned the mathematical basics of operating a business.

Greg tells how he turned his soda business novices into soda magnates — and how you can do the same with your students — in **Taking Care of Business**, page 33.

You may not realize it, but chances are good that under your classroom roof sit several bonified *rockhounds*. A rockhound is someone who collects, investigates, lives and breathes rocks.

Given the opportunity — and an electronic rock data file — just about any child will become a rockhound. There's something about the world of rocks that fascinates kids. This month's cover story, **The Rockhound Files**, page 10, tells how you can take advantage of this fascination with rocks to help children learn important science and computing skills.

The article provides a teaching unit in which students use hands-on research to collect rock data. They then design a data file format for entering and storing their data on the computer. Once kids have entered their data into the data file, they perform several data retrieval exercises that teach them how to evaluate their research. By the end of the unit, students will understand how to use a data base management system as well as how to identify many common rocks. But best of all, they will have developed skill in scientific observation, measurement, classification, and evaluation.

If you are looking for a fresh new classroom play, we have just the script for you. It's entitled **The Mystery of Megan Watt**, page 16, and it stars none other than your classroom computer! Yes, that's correct. In this play, with the help of a Logo program, a real computer "delivers" lines on its monitor.

Superwoman, Batman, Robin, Sherlock Holmes, and Dr. Watson also make appearances in this two-act mystery. It's a play that's bound to be a crowd pleaser.

Other excellent material in this month's issue include four task cards that teach kids how to write stories with exciting plots and a poster (second in a series of two) on software.

Mary Dalheim

Could the T&C *staff use its own soda-business spreadsheet? Looks like the editors drink enough soda to maintain a profitable enterprise! Left to right: Mickey Revenaugh, Jackie Glasthal, Mary Dalheim, Kris Meyer.*

TEACHING and computers

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Founder of Scholastic Inc., 1895-1982

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UPDATE

NEWS FOR COMPUTER-USING TEACHERS

APPLE COMPUTER CLUB ANNUAL COMPETITION

Student members and adult advisors of Apple Computer Clubs are invited to enter Apple's fourth annual Computer Club Merit Competition. Participants are asked to submit original ideas on useful applications for Apple computers.

Submissions are accepted in four categories: Community Service, BASIC programming, Computers in the Curriculum, and Judges' Choice. Winners are selected on three levels: kindergarten through fifth, sixth through eighth, and ninth through twelfth grade. The deadline for contest submissions is April 15, 1987.

Grand prize winners will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Additional prizes will be awarded to semifinalists and runners-up. Names of all contest winners will be announced in mid-May.

For the official contest rules or further information on how to start an Apple Computer Club, write to: Apple Computer Clubs International, 175 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford, MA 01730; 800/343-1425.

STORY WRITING CONTEST

If you own a piece of software called *Story Tree*, you can cultivate students' imaginations and writing skills by participating in the third annual *Story Tree* Writing Contest. (*Story Tree*, published by Scholastic Inc., is a writing tool that helps kids organize and write interactive adventure, mystery, and other types of stories.)

Children enter the contest by submitting a printout of a story they have written with the help of *Story Tree*. Prizes for the contest will be awarded to the best written stories in two divisions: elementary (grades four through six) and junior high (grades seven through nine). The author of the grand prize-winning story in each of these divisions will receive an Apple computer. Each of the two winning authors' teachers will also receive an Apple for classroom use. An additional 10 stories will be selected for honorable mention in each division. These winners will each receive $100 worth of Scholastic software.

Entry deadline is April 30, 1987. Winners will be announced in May. For more details about entering the contest, write to: Scholastic Software, *Story Tree* Contest, Dept. BB, 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

NEWSLETTER FOR "APPLEWORKS" USERS

Home and School Works is a new educational newsletter that promotes the use of *AppleWorks* software in both schools and homes. It is the result of efforts by teachers, students, parents, and home users of *AppleWorks* software.

Articles include tips on tapping the power of *AppleWorks*; educational applications of the program; and reviews of hardware, software, and books that support *AppleWorks* software.

A one-year subscription (10 issues) is available for $19.95. A sample issue is $2.50. School purchase orders are accepted.

For more information, write to: Dave Chesebrough, Editor, *H&S Works Newsletter*, P.O. Box 72, Leetsdale, PA 15056.
(Circle 21 on Product Info Card.)

THIRD EDITION OF "BANK STREET WRITER" RELEASED

The Bank Street Writer III, a new and more powerful edition of the popular *Bank Street Writer* word processing program, has just been released. The new program takes advantage of the increased potential of Apple and IBM (and other MS/DOS) 128K microcomputers now installed in many classrooms.

Key features of *The Bank Street Writer III* are a fully-integrated 60,000-word spelling checker, a 50,000-synonym thesaurus, and a "Big Print" disk for the Apple edition, which allows early learners to write in a 20-column mode. The Scholastic edition of the program also offers on-screen, nonerasable prompts for teachers who wish to customize writing activities for students.

"Trade-ups" of *The Bank Street Writer* and *The Bank Street Writer II* for the new version of the program are available at $49.95 (for the Apple version) and $62.45 (IBM). The IBM version also runs on Tandy and other MS/DOS microcomputers.

The Bank Street Writer III sells for $79.95 (Apple version) and $99.95 (IBM). It is also available in lab packs that contain five sets of disks and a user's handbook for $129.95 (Apple version) or $159.95 (IBM).

For more information, contact Scholastic Software, P.O. Box 7501, 2931 East McCarty St., Jefferson City, MO 65102; 800/325-6149.
(Circle 22 on Product Info Card.)

VIDEODISC RESOURCES

Two new resources — an educational newsletter and a videodisc directory — are available to teachers who use videodisc-based courseware in their classrooms. Both are published by Systems Impact, Inc.

Teaching with Videodiscs, a bimonthly newsletter, includes product announcements and reviews, articles on new developments in videodisc technology, insights on how some schools are using videodisc programs, and a forum for questions and comments from educators. Subscribers also receive special topic papers on subjects related to interactive videodisc technology.

The second resource, *Educational Videodisc Directory* (published semiannually), is a 16-page booklet that lists more than 60 educational videodisc titles arranged according to subject. The educational level, format, price, publisher, number of videodiscs, and content description of each package is given.

A free subscription to *Teaching with Videodiscs* magazine is included with the purchase of any software from the Systems Impact's Core Concepts in Science and Mathematics series. It is also available to noncustomers for $25 per year. The *Educational Videodisc Directory* is included free of charge with subscriptions to the newsletter. It is available to nonsubscribers for $5 per copy.

For more information on Systems Impact products, write or call Systems Impact, Inc., 4400 MacArthur Blvd., N.W., Suite 203, Washington, D.C. 20007; 202/342-9369 or toll free 800/822-INFO.
(Circle 23 on Product Info Card.) ■

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COMPUTER CLASSROOMS

Four hundred twenty students and 12 teachers at the Thurston Middle School in Laguna Beach, CA, combined efforts to make the world's longest computerized banner.

KIDS CREATE "WORLD'S LARGEST BANNER"

Students at Thurston Middle School in Laguna Beach, California, like to do everything big. That's why they created the world's largest banner — it was 1.7 miles long! The banner announced an upcoming school fund-raiser known as the Laguna Beach 10K Race. The banner was made with the help of six computers and a graphics program called *The Print Shop* (published by Broderbund).

By taking turns during the school day, as well as putting in extra hours on the weekend, it took 420 11- to 14-year-olds and 12 teachers two weeks to complete the project. The banner not only announced the race, it also listed the names of the students who worked on it and the names of 75 companies that helped to sponsor the race.

During the two-week period in which the banner was being completed, the morning announcements at Thurston began with an update on the banner's length. The information was also posted daily on bulletin boards throughout the school.

When the banner was finally done, the school received a proclamation signed by Laguna Beach's mayor, which acknowledged that Thurston students had created the largest banner in the world. Now the school is trying to qualify the banner for *The Guinness Book of World Records.* They have also sent a copy of the banner to President Ronald Reagan, who has often stressed the importance of industries "adopting" education projects.

WEATHER TRACKERS

What was the coldest day in Massachusetts last October? Did it snow on Halloween?

Linda Ferullo and her second graders at the School of the Future in Cambridge, Massachusetts, can tell you. With the aid of a thermometer hung outside their classroom window, children tracked the temperature each day for the entire month. They also looked up additional weather information in a daily newspaper. They entered the facts onto a "weather information chart" bulletin board, as well as onto worksheets. The compiled data, which covered precipitation, humidity, temperature, and wind factors, was then transferred into a classroom data base.

During the month, Linda and her students also wrote letters to friends and family in other parts of the country. "What was the weather like for you today?" they asked. When postcards and pictures came back with descriptions of the weather in other areas of the United States, Linda's students checked their data base to see how the climates compared on specific dates. From the responses they received they learned a lot. They found out that it can be warm in Wyoming, but bitter cold in Boston at the same time.

POP MUSIC WITH A LOGO "TWIST"

Kids from Texas Christian University's Summer Gifted Institute know a lot about music, art, math, computer literacy, and Logo. Much of this knowledge, says their former instructor, Graydon Dawson, was the result of just one extended project: the making of Logo rock videos.

Graydon challenged the 12- to 15-year-olds he was working with to create their own rock videos with the help of *Super Logo* (Tandy/Radio Shack) software and the Radio Shack Color Computer.

"In the beginning, these kids didn't know much about Logo, but once they were given this challenge," Graydon says, "they just couldn't learn Logo commands fast enough. Even after working on the videos two hours a day for two straight weeks, kids were always ready and willing to come on back for more."

To complete the project, Graydon taught his students how *Super Logo* allows users to HATCH multiple turtles onto the computer screen. (Other versions of Logo, including *LogoWriter,* also allow users to use more than one Logo turtle at a time.) Then they learned the appropriate syntax to produce four turtles operating independently of one another. Finally, when they were comfortable using all four turtles at once, students were asked to bring to class a cassette recording of their favorite popular tune.

Using stop watches and story board-like drawings, students (each one working with a partner) wrote Logo programs that synchronized the beat of a song to Logo movements and color changes.

"It's exciting to see a cartoon-like Michael Jackson moon dance to one of his songs, or to see colorful geometric designs unfold to the beat of a top-10 tune," Graydon says.

If you would like more information on how to use Logo to create rock videos, contact Graydon Dawson, Electronic Data Systems, c/o Corporate Training Services, 5236 Tennyson Parkway, Plano, TX 75024.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

COMPUTER RECESS

When elementary school students volunteer to give up recess for extra work in subjects like reading and math, there's a good chance something special is going on.

At Washington Elementary School in Olathe, Kansas, something special *is* going on. It's called computer recess, and it was designed by Nancy Tomlinson, reading specialist at the school. Here's how it works: Every day, each homeroom teacher at Washington selects one student to attend computer lab during the class's recess. While at the lab, students can work on school or any other computer-related projects.

Recess was the only time in the school day, Nancy realized, when the school's five Apple II computers sat idle. "But not anymore," she says. "Now we're using them every minute that we can."

Most students at Washington have the opportunity to attend computer recess approximately once a month. Some homeroom teachers offer it as a reward for good behavior; others go through their attendance sheets alphabetically to ensure equal access.

The atmosphere of computer recess is more relaxed than during regular computer lab classes. "We don't ask for absolute quiet," Nancy explains. "After all, students *are* giving up their regular recess time for this."

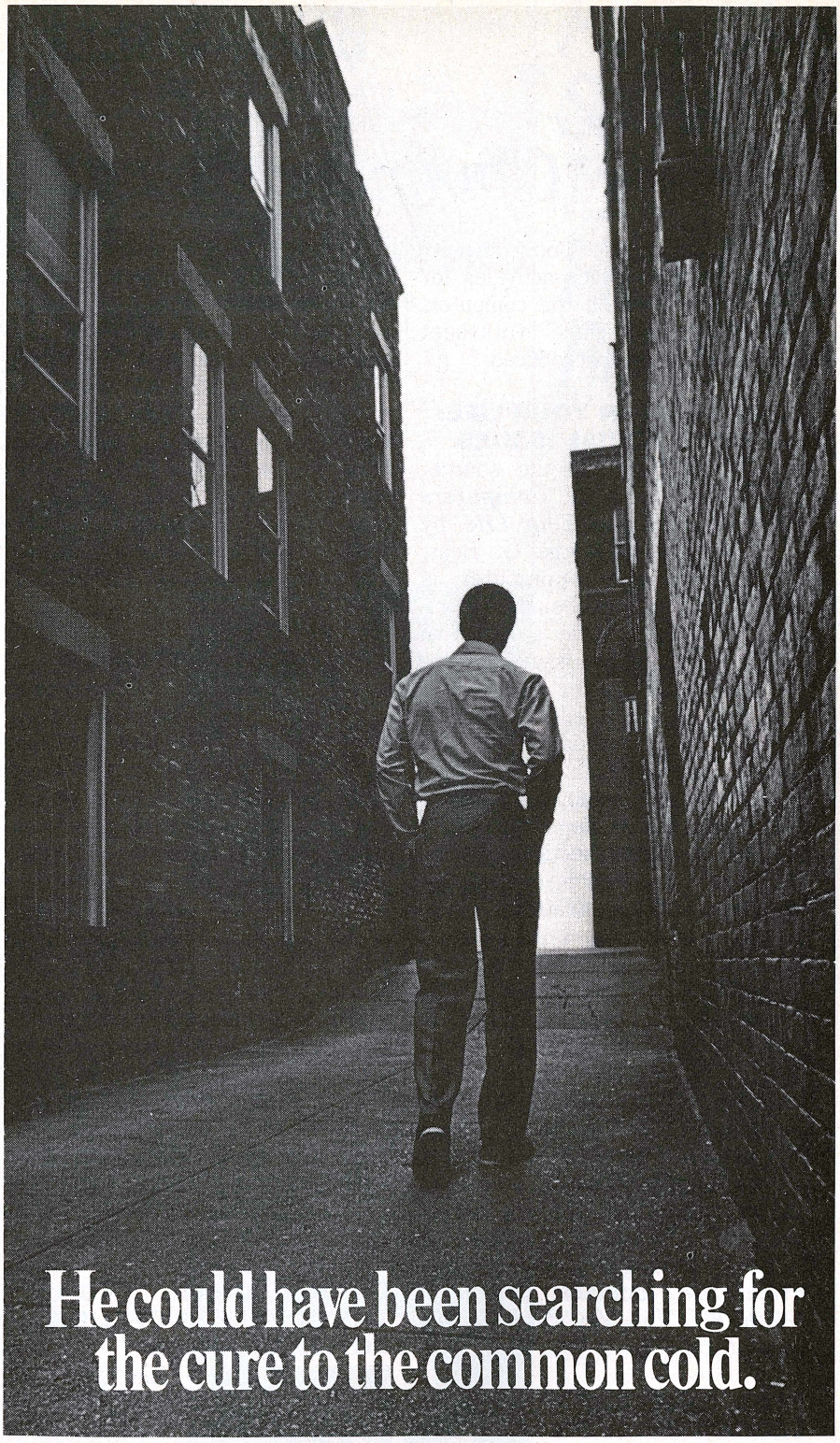
Mary-Lane Kamberg
Olathe, KS

BE A REPORTER!

Come on, computer-using LD teachers. We know you're out there! What exciting computer projects have *your* students been working on lately? We'd like to tell our readers about them in this column.

Send a brief description of your project along with any photos you can spare. We'll pay $25 to $50 if we publish your story. Write: "Classroom Happenings," *Teaching and Computers*, 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. ■

BY JACKIE GLASTHAL



There are kids out there who have the desire and the brains to go to college. What they don't have is the money. So they don't go. And that is nothing less than a crime.

Which is why the United Negro College Fund exists. By keeping tuitions down at its 43 predominantly black colleges, the Fund gives a chance to thousands of these deserving students. A chance they would not have gotten otherwise.

So please, send your check to the United Negro College Fund, 500 East 62nd Street, New York, New York 10021. Who knows, it may be the check that will clear up your next cold.

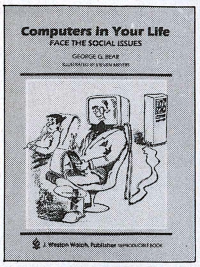
Give to the United Negro College Fund.
A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Ad Council

Computer Activity Books

The following five books suggest computer literacy activities for both on and off the computer. All books include worksheet pages that may be reproduced.

COMPUTERS IN YOUR LIFE: FACE THE SOCIAL ISSUES

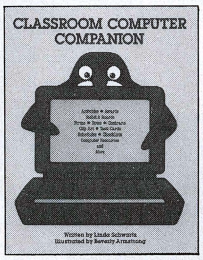


In the sourcebook, ***Computers in Your Life***, by George G. Bear, no computer is necessary to involve students in the issues of computer ethics. Student involvement is elicited through the book's 95 reproducible worksheets. Each of Bear's five chapters is divided into a section for teachers and another for students. The very thorough teachers' sections provide background information, learning objectives, teaching strategies, suggested readings, and answers to questions posed in the corresponding students' section of the book. The students' pages involve individuals or small groups in computer ethics through case studies, moral dilemmas, role-playing, and values clarification exercises. *Computers in Your Life* is appropriate for both computer and social studies classes, grades six through eight. It is also an excellent resource for teachers of gifted students in grades four through six. Price: *$18*. Contact: *J. Weston Walch, P.O. Box 658, Portland, ME 04104-0658.*

PLAY TOGETHER LEARN TOGETHER

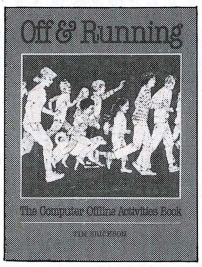
Parents and teachers of children ages four through seven will be happy to know about ***Play Together Learn Together***. In this book, reading readiness and computer literacy are taught through games, puzzles, and coloring pages. Additional activities are supplied on an accompanying diskette. Topics include counting, knowing the keyboard and screen, designing patterns, above/below and left/right discrimination, and BASIC commands. The book is well indexed, which makes it a good resource for the primary classroom as well as the home. For owners of Apple II series computers only. Price: *$24.95 includes diskette.* Contact: *Grolier Electronic Publishing, Inc., Sherman Turnpike, Danbury, CT 06816.*

CLASSROOM COMPUTER COMPANION



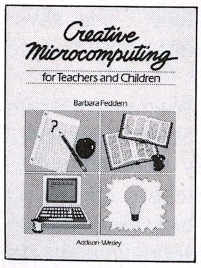
Classroom Computer Companion by Linda Schwartz is a collection of almost 100 blackline masters that are related to classroom computing. Included are reproducible task cards, glossary pages, certificates, scheduling charts, worksheets, bulletin board activities, and more. The masters are adaptable for use with any grade level and with any brand of computer. The book is divided into eight well-organized chapters for easy use, and there is an answer key at the end of the book. Price: *$9.95*. Contact: *The Learning Works, Inc., P.O. Box 6187, Santa Barbara, CA 93160.*

OFF & RUNNING: THE COMPUTER OFFLINE ACTIVITIES BOOK



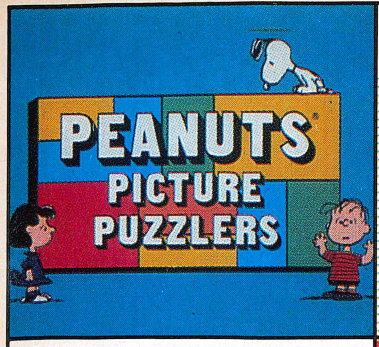
Tim Erickson's 145-page spiral-bound book ***Off & Running*** provides computer-related games and activities for all ages. Each of the activities are designed as off computer exercises. The concept of programming is demonstrated, for example, by having students break instructions into small steps and perform them in a logical sequence. Cooperation and equity are emphasized. Computer ethics and computer history are also taught. Tying the activities from one section to the next is the narrative of a 12-year-old boy named Chris. He explains how the activities were all originally tasks set for him over the summer by his Aunt Bebe. Some reproducible worksheets are included. Take heed of the advice given in the table of contents: Don't skip the Introduction! Price: *$12.50 plus $2 shipping.* Contact: *Kay Gilliland, Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.*

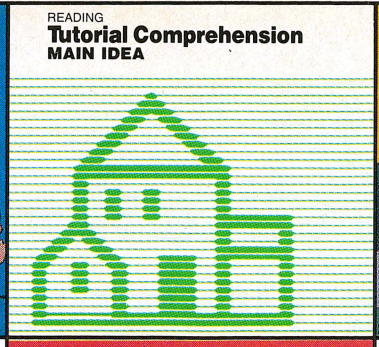
CREATIVE MICROCOMPUTING FOR TEACHERS AND CHILDREN

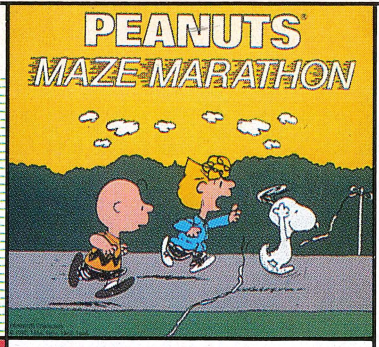


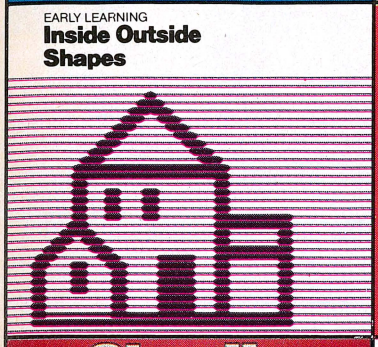
Creative Microcomputing by Barbara Feddern is a compendium of computer literacy and programming activities designed for elementary and middle school students. Literacy activities range from those primary students can easily handle (collecting articles on how computers are used in various fields, for example), to more sophisticated literacy for intermediate students. The section on programming includes explanations of the commands PRINT, GOTO, INPUT, IF-THEN, FOR-NEXT, REM, READ-DATA, and PRINTTAB. Random numbers, graphics, subroutines and variables are also explained. The pages in the book are perforated and three-hole punched, which allows you to arrange them in a looseleaf binder in any order that you wish. The many blackline masters in the book include explanations of concepts as well as activities for children to complete. Price: *$18.60*. Contact: *Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., One Jacob Way, Reading, MA 01867.* ■

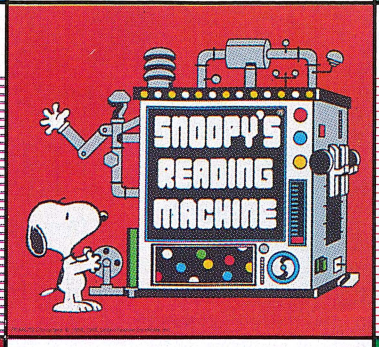
Candy Colborn is a media specialist at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School in Englewood, CO.

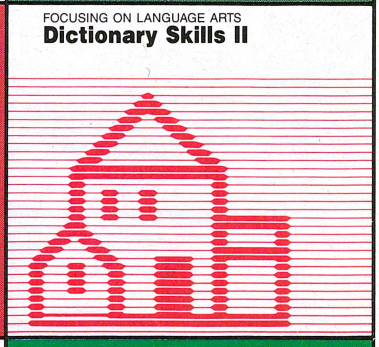


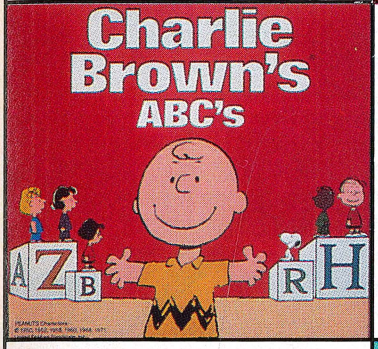


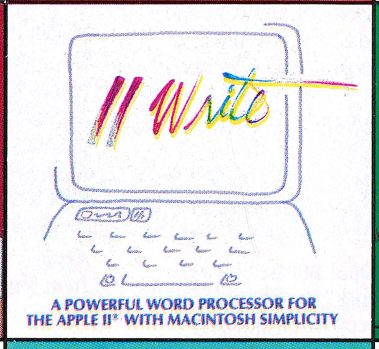


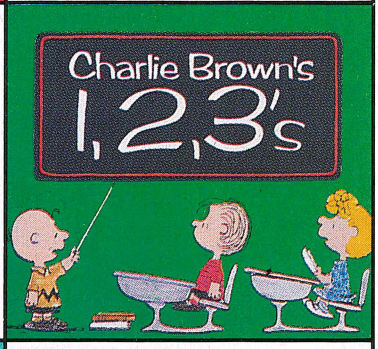


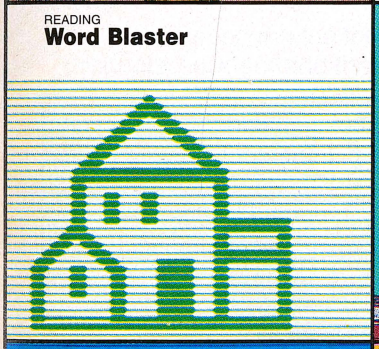


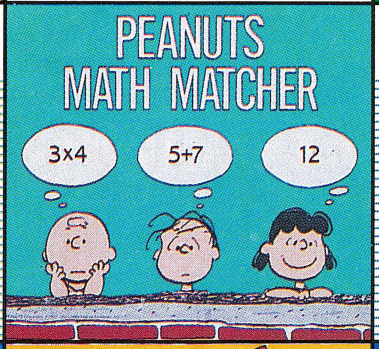


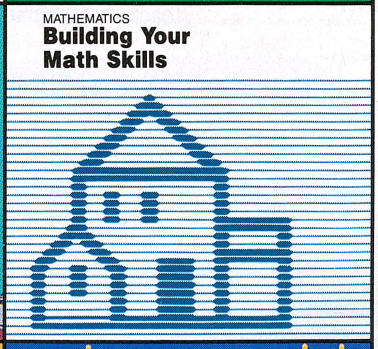


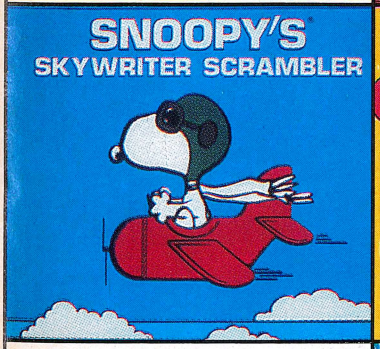


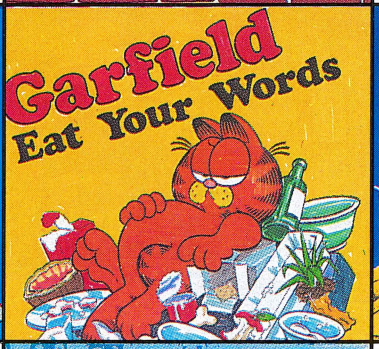


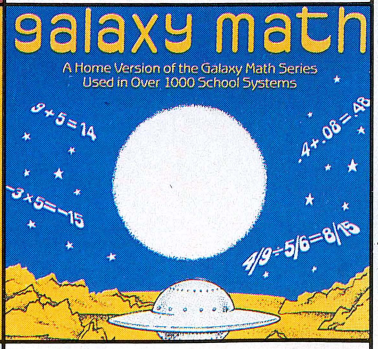


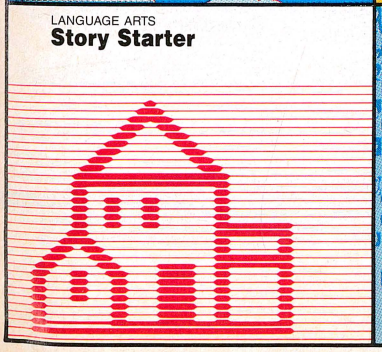


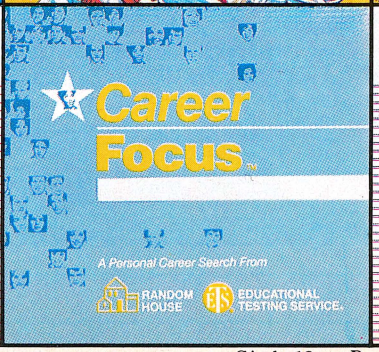


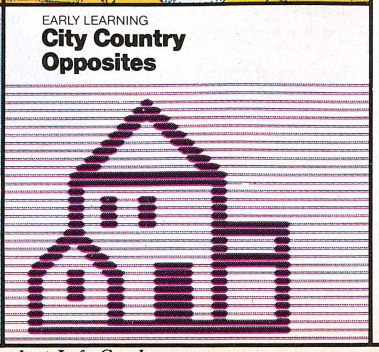












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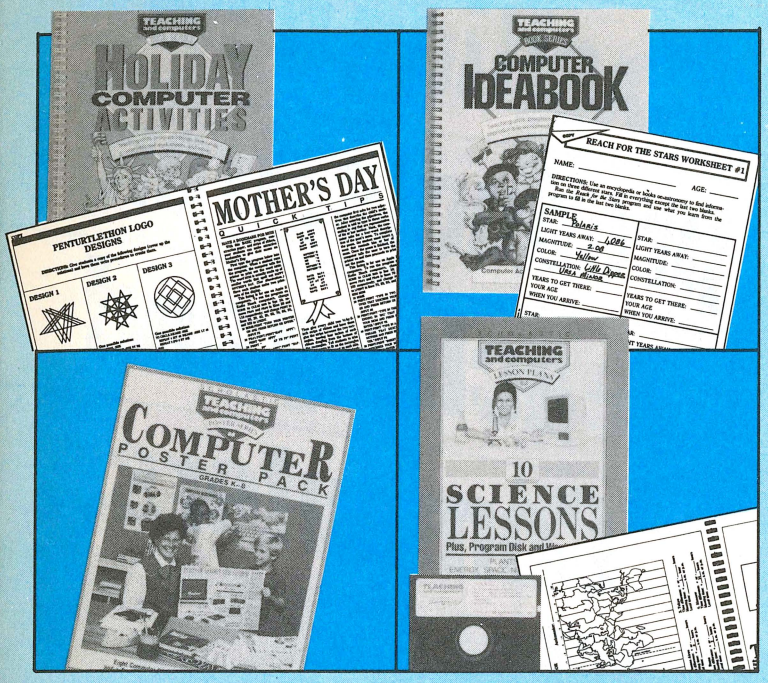

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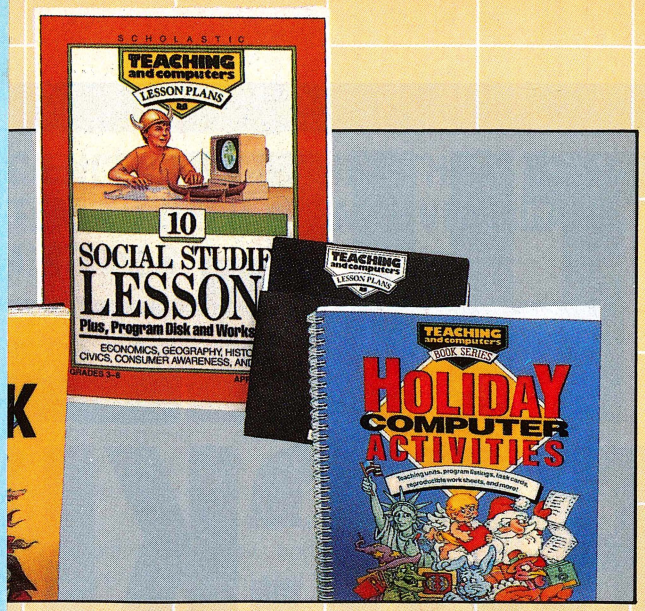

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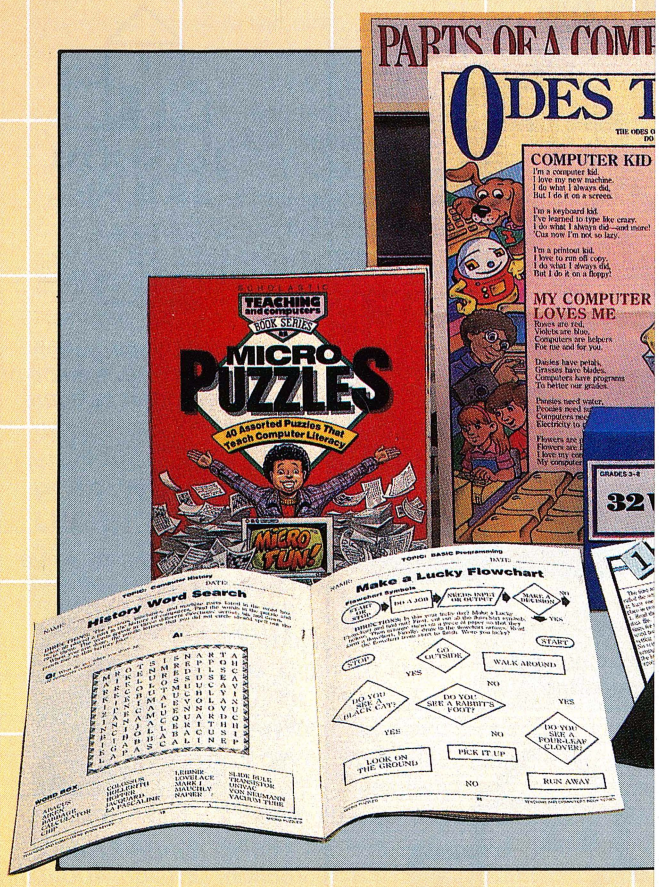

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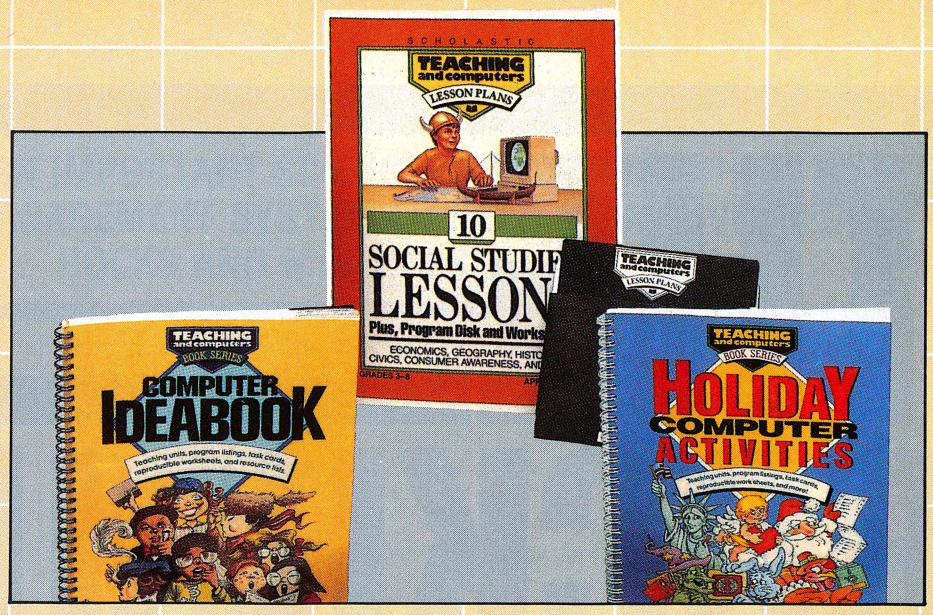

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THE ROCKHOUND FILES

By Marilyn Sue Ford
and Linda Gregg

KIDS CAN LEARN IMPORTANT SCIENCE SKILLS WHEN THEY USE A DATA BASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO HELP THEM INVESTIGATE ROCKS AND MINERALS.

"It's so shiny!"

"Look at the way this one sparkles!"

"My magnet lifts this one up."

"I wonder why this one has layers."

So goes a typical conversation around the science table as students examine the rocks they've collected, and search for words to describe their qualities.

In this guided discovery unit on rocks, your students will make similar observations, and many more. They will become true *rockhounds*. They will have opportunities to investigate the shape of rocks as well as their weight, their degree of magnetism, their smell, their luster, their hardness, and the color of their streaks.

But that's not all. Children will also design and set up data file records that will let them enter and retrieve their rock research on a computer. When they finish, they will understand how a data base management system works — how it stores, sorts, and retrieves information. They will also know how to best use the information stored in a data base. They will also develop important science process skills: those of observation, communication, measurement, and classification.

All of the activities in this teaching unit were developed with *Scholastic pfs: file* software, but can be adapted for use with any data base management software. If you have never used this kind of software before and are unfamiliar with such data base terminology as *fields*, *records*, and *files*, read the "Data Base Primer" on page 13 for important introductory information.

(continued)

David Anson Russo

PREPARATION

For the activities in this teaching unit, you will need at least 50 assorted rocks. Your students can collect the majority of these on their own. In addition, you might wish to contact local builders. They are usually a good source for rocks. If necessary, you can purchase rock and mineral sets from science education supply houses. Try to collect a variety of rock types.

Once your collection is complete, enlist students' aid in labeling each rock with a different code number. (To label the rocks for research, dab on a small spot of quick-drying enamel paint, let it dry, and number it with India ink.)

Egg cartons make great storage containers for your rocks. Place each labeled rock in its own compartment. Then display the rock cartons, along with several magnifying glasses, on the science table.

INITIAL EXPLORATION

When you are ready to begin the unit, have each child select from the rock cartons one sample to study in detail. Set aside adequate class time for students to take turns talking about their individual rocks. As children describe the rocks they have chosen, list the adjectives they use on the chalkboard or on chart paper. Adjectives might include: *heavy, light, black, smooth, rough, tan, jagged, reddish, pink and white, sandy, shiny, coarse, dull, light brown, layered, dotted, off-white, round, flat, egg-shaped.*

Next, help students organize their observations by showing them how to sort the adjectives into categories. Start them off by asking such questions as: Which of the words describe rock color? Shape? Texture? Weight? Have the students chart out these and other category names and the adjectives that accompany them. Here is how the previous list of adjectives could be sorted into a Word Bank chart:

Adjectives	Categories
white, off-white, reddish, black, pink and white, light brown, tan	color
light, heavy, medium	weight
jagged, lumpy, shiny, dull; layered, dotted, glassy, waxy	appearance
smooth, rough, soft, scratchy	touch
round, flat, egg-shaped	shape

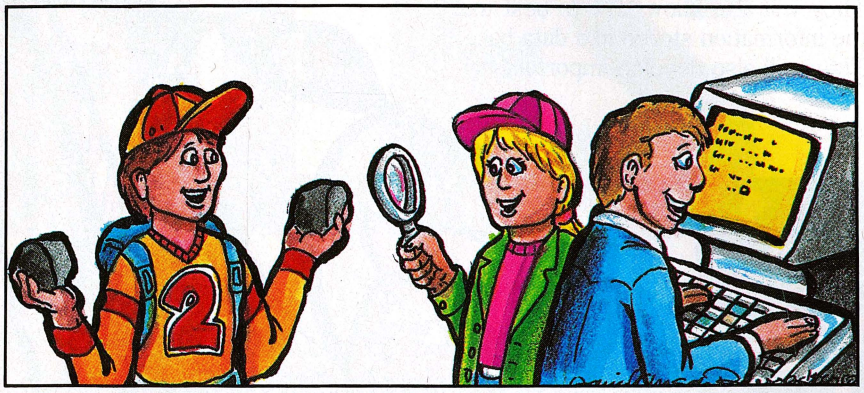
After the Word Bank discussion has ended, change the chart label that reads "Categories" to "Fields." The categories your students have chosen should be considered as core "fields" for the data records they will develop later. Some of the fields listed at this point may be eliminated, however, by the time the final data record format has been established on the computer.

ESTABLISHING DATA FIELDS

On the chalkboard or a large chart, help your students design a preliminary record format for rock data. (See sample record on next page.) Encourage kids to start with the field titles (categories) they generated in the previous activity and then add to and/or subtract from these.

You may wish to suggest, through guided discovery, some additional, more technical fields, such as HARDNESS, STREAK, and MAGNETISM. In this activity, as in others throughout this teaching unit, it is important to remember that the more you tell students, the less thinking they do for themselves. Try to get children to discover as many fields as they can on their own.

Explore each of the fields listed on the chalkboard or chart in greater detail. Have children define each field and discuss standardized words they could use to record data about each. (Adjust your Word Bank according to the results of the discussion.)



Rock Hardness Scale

Set aside space for a rock testing station, stocked with a copper penny, a steel knife, and a small pane of glass. For each rock, students should start with the fingernail test below and move as needed through each level of hardness testing. For the tests involving glass, caution students to place the glass on the table (not in their hand) when rubbing their rock across it.

Hardness Number	Test
1	Fingernail scratches it easily.
2	Fingernail barely scratches it.
3	Copper penny just scratches it.
4	Steel knife scratches it easily.
5	Steel knife barely scratches it.
6	Scratches glass easily.
7	Scratches glass and steel easily.
8	Too hard to be tested in this activity.

The following field definitions and activities may be helpful. As your field discussion progresses, students will probably continue to refine their list of fields.

Color: Have students with dark colored rocks move to one side of the room, and students with light colored rocks move to the other side of the room. Then instruct students to divide into smaller groups according to finer similarities in the color of their rocks (i.e., light gray, dark gray).

To sharpen their observations, have students consider such questions as: "Is my rock only one color? Many colors? More one color than another?" Tell them to describe the colors in their rock by beginning with the color there is the most of (the *predominant* color). For example, a rock that is mostly white but has more black specks than gray specks, would be described as "white, black, gray." Go around the room and let each child describe his or her rock in this fashion.

Tell children that the reason some rocks have several colors in them is that they are made up of several kinds of minerals. Different kinds of minerals can be different colors.

Two definitions are important to discuss at this point: the definitions for *mineral* and *rock*. A *mineral* is a chemical element found in or on the earth. Iron ore, ruby, quartz, and gold are minerals. *Rocks* are made up of minerals. Although rockhounds know the difference between rocks and minerals, they customarily call both "rocks."

Sample Data Record

GEOLOGIST:
ROCK LABEL:
COLOR:
WEIGHT:
TOUCH:
SHAPE:
LUSTER:
SMELL:
TRANSPARENCY:
HARDNESS:
STREAK:
MAGNETISM:
SPECIAL PROPERTIES:

Based on their own observations about rocks — and a few suggestions from the teacher — students develop a record format for the computer data file.

Weight: There are different ways to describe the weight of your rocks. One way is to use relative terms, such as *heavy, medium,* and *light.* Another way is to use exact measurements, such as specific *grams.* In either of these cases, if all of the rock samples are not the same size, the measurements may not indicate which rock types are truly heavy and which are light. For this reason, scientists do not use either of these measurement systems. They use what is called specific gravity. The specific gravity of a rock is the weight in grams of the rock divided by the weight in grams of an amount of water that has the same volume as the rock. If the specific gravity of a rock is less than 1, the rock is lighter than an equal amount of water. If the specific gravity is, say, 2, the rock is twice the weight of an equal amount of water.

Just about any book on rock collecting explains in detail how to measure specific gravity. In most cases, however, this process is a little too sophisticated for elementary students. Instead, ask *students* to decide how to accommodate for differences in size. Children are very creative; when challenged to solve this problem, they usually develop an ingenious method.

Appearance (Luster): The luster, or glow, of a rock is determined by how its minerals absorb, reflect, or refract light. Words associated with luster include *metallic, glassy, pearly, silky, dull,* and *earthy.* Your students may have included these terms under a field entitled APPEARANCE or LOOKS. Decide if they should learn the term *luster* and if the field name should be included in their record format.

Touch: Have students list the adjectives that describe how their rocks feel to them. Ask if any of these adjectives are synonyms, and then pair these words: *rough* and *coarse,* for example. Have the class choose the most descriptive adjective in each pair. Now go to the Word Bank and replace the words you had originally assigned to the TOUCH field with these final choices.

Shape: Rocks come in many shapes, so it is a challenge for students to develop a list of adjectives that describe the shape of their rocks. Have students brainstorm all the shape words they can think of. Next, have them pair synonyms and choose the best adjectives to record as standardized vocabulary in their Word Bank.

Smell: Tell students to breathe on their rock (this adds moisture to it and increases its odor) and then smell it. Ask, "Does it smell earthy, like dirt after a rainstorm, or does it have no smell?" List the adjectives that

(continued)

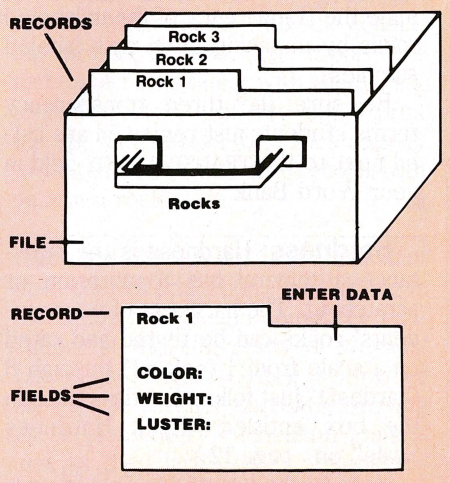
Data Base Primer

A data base management program is a piece of software that lets you organize, store, and retrieve information. It is like an electronic filing cabinet. All data base programs contain three important elements: *fields, records,* and *files.*

1. Field: A field is a category or item of information. In this rock data files unit, adjectives are divided into categories that become field titles. COLOR, WEIGHT, and LUSTER are examples of field titles.

2. Record: A record is a collection or listing of related fields. In the rock data files, there is a record for each rock. The COLOR, WEIGHT, and LUSTER fields for Rock 1 are on one record, while Rock 2's COLOR, WEIGHT, and LUSTER fields are on a separate record.

3. File: A file is a collection of related records. The records on Rocks1, 2, and all other rocks would make up the Rock Data File.



Rock Data Searches

Questions like these will give students plenty of practice searching for and retrieving data from their computerized rock data file. Encourage kids to think up (and answer!) additional data search questions of their own.

1. How many pure white rocks are listed?
2. How many rocks are listed as "white, black, gray"?
3. How many black rocks are smooth to the touch?
4. How many more heavy rocks are there than light rocks?
5. How many more dull looking rocks are there than shiny rocks?
6. How many medium-weight rocks have a hardness of 5 or more?
7. Do any glassy rocks have an earthy smell?
8. How many nonmetallic rocks have a white streak?
9. How many odd-shaped rocks are shiny?
10. Are any metallic rocks magnetic?

describe the smells and then work with your class to standardize the vocabulary and revise the Word Bank accordingly.

Transparency: Transparency is the degree to which minerals in rocks transmit light. Near a window or a light source, display rock samples that have been labeled according to their transparency. If you can see images through a rock, label it "transparent." If you can see light but not specific images through it, label the rock "translucent." Any rock you cannot see through at all should be labeled "opaque." Give children time to inspect these rocks on their own. Then bring out some unlabeled rocks. As a group, determine the tranparency of the unlabeled rocks by matching them with labeled samples.

Be sure the three transparency terms students just reviewed are listed next to the TRANSPARENCY field in your Word Bank.

Hardness: Hardness is the resistance a mineral has to abrasion or scratching. The hardness of your students' rocks can be tested and rated on a scale from 1 (softest) through 8 (hardest). Just follow the directions in the box entitled "Rock Hardness Scale" on page 12.

Next to the HARDNESS field in your Word Bank, list the numerals 1 through 8.

Streak: Give students a ceramic streak plate or an unglazed porcelain tile and tell them to rub their rock across it. The rock will leave a powdery streak. With the help of a streak chart (found in most rock books) the color of the streak can be used to identify the rock's minerals. The streak may not be the same color as its rock. For example, both gold and pyrite (fool's gold) are yellowish rocks, but gold will leave a golden streak and pyrite will leave a greenish-black streak. The streak test lets you tell real gold from fool's gold! At this point you do not need to consult a streak chart. All you need to do is list the color results of students' streak tests next to the STREAK field in your Word Bank.

Magnetism: Let students use magnets to determine if a rock contains magnetic material. Standardized Word Bank vocabulary for this field could be as simple as *magnetic* and *nonmagnetic*.

FORMATTING THE DATA RECORD

Students must now make a final decision on the fields they believe will adequately describe the physical properties of rocks. This will form the final record format that will be entered into the computer via data base software. *Scholastic pfs: file*, which is the software this teaching unit uses, allows unlimited characters per field, and unlimited fields per record, but if you are using another data base program students may have to limit the number of fields and letters included in the record format.

To the list of fields your class finally selects, be sure and add a field for the student/geologist's name and a field for extra facts, entitled OTHER or SPECIAL PROPERTIES.

It may be a good idea at this point to train two or three student computer "experts" in the record design and data entry functions of your data management program. Have them work out the final record format on the computer. (This team of experts will also be able to assist classmates later, in the data entry phase of this teaching unit.)

After reviewing their work, print out a blank record and give each student a photocopy.

RECORDING THE DATA ON PAPER

Have each student fill in a record sheet for his or her original rock. If time and your specimen collection permit, students can research additional rocks as well. Remind kids of the research skills they have learned so far, and encourage them to put these skills into practice.

The revised Word Bank should be prominently displayed. Tell students that if they use standardized vocabulary for their field data, it will be easier to compare and contrast records later on.

SIMULATING A DATA BASE

After students have recorded all the data for their rocks, they are ready to experience data base programming. The following off-computer activity is a good way to physically show children how this process works.

Tell each student to hold onto his or her rock and its record sheet. Then lead children to an open area that is free of tables, chairs, and any other obstacles. Have them sit down.

Tell kids that you will help them simulate how their computer data base works; you will direct them to stand or sit according to various rock

attributes (field characteristics) you call out.

Start with the following dialogue: "All students with rocks whose COLOR field is listed as white, please stand. Everyone else remain seated. Of those standing, look at your WEIGHT field. If your rock is listed as 'heavy,' remain standing; otherwise, sit down. Now hold up your rock; it should be white and heavy if you are standing, and if you are sitting, your rock is not white and heavy. We have searched for rocks that share common attributes in two fields; we have found rocks that are both white and heavy."

Have everyone sit down and tell the class that you will now search for three shared attributes. Use the following dialogue: "Check the TOUCH field; stand if you listed 'smooth' as the adjective in this field. If your rock has 'medium' in the WEIGHT field, remain standing. Finally, check the LUSTER field; if your rock is described as 'dull,' remain standing. Hold up your rock; it should be smooth to touch, of medium weight, and have a dull luster."

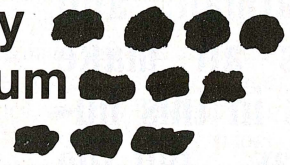
Continue this human data base activity until your students have a good understanding of how a computer data management program can search file records and sort data to find rocks that share common attributes.

USING THE COMPUTERIZED DATA BASE

Have students exchange their completed record sheets. Tell kids to proofread the sheets for spelling errors and to verify that the adjectives used match those on the Word Bank chart. As a second check, when they are ready to enter data into the computer, have the students pair up and select a record sheet or sheets that neither they nor their partner has worked on previously. One partner should type while the other reads the data aloud.

When data from all the record sheets has been typed in, students are ready to use their computerized data file. Demonstrate to the class how to retrieve rock data with your data base management program. Like *Scholastic pfs: file,* most data base management programs will allow you to search for and print out records that contain one or more specified variables. For example, your students could have the computer retrieve records for all rocks whose COLOR field is listed as white, or whose COLOR is white and WEIGHT is more than four grams.

Rock Attribute Pictograph



Comparison Statements:

1. There are more heavy rocks than light and medium-weight rocks in our collection.
2. There are equal numbers of lightweight and medium-weight rocks in our collection.

Have students summarize their rock file data with simple graphs and text.

When the students have a feel for how to retrieve data, they are ready to make their own computer searches. (Again, it will be beneficial to you and your students to specially train two or more computer experts to help classmates retrieve data from computer files as they work.) Kids will probably first ask the computer to find rocks like the one they researched themselves. After such initial exploration, they're usually eager to begin asking higher level questions. Encourage their curiosity with a list of suggested rock data searches (see sample, page 14). You may soon discover that the more questions students ask of their computer data file, the more questions they seem to generate. Give students plenty of time to explore and share their discoveries. They will then be ready to move on to the following activities or to design their own retrieval projects.

Search-Compare-Debug: In this whole-class activity, all students will need to have their rock and their completed record sheet close at hand.

Begin by having a student go to the computer and search for rocks that share common attributes. For example, a child might search the data file for all the lightweight, gray, opaque rocks, and print out that data.

Next, run a human check on the results the computer produced. Here is how you would do that in the case of the lightweight, gray, opaque search: Ask students with lightweight rocks to stand; tell them to remain standing only if their rock is also gray and opaque.

The computer search and the human search should match. If not, it is problem solving time: either the computer file or the record sheets need to be debugged! The activity itself rewards accuracy and emphasizes the need for correct spelling.

Graphing Rocks By Attribute: Choose any field and make a list of the adjectives in the Word Bank for that field. Search the file for the number of rocks described by each adjective. Make a pictograph or bar graph to display the data found (see sample pictograph, this page). Ask students to summarize the data in a comparison statement, such as "There are more heavy rocks than medium and lightweight rocks in our collection," or "We have an equal number of medium and lightweight rocks." Encourage students to try the same exercise using the adjectives from two or more fields in the same search.

Matching Data To Geological Names: Label a set of rocks and minerals with their geological names. Then have students complete a record sheet for each geologically named rock or mineral. Taking one specimen at a time, they should enter the major attributes listed on its record sheet as search/retrieve specifications. If the search turns up a rock record that closely matches the record for the named sample, your students will know the name of the rock or mineral in their file.

There is another way for children to match rock data to geological names. Most books on rock collecting provide tables that supply the names of rocks along with their common attributes. Children could print out the data record for a rock and try to match the data in this record with data in a rock table. ■

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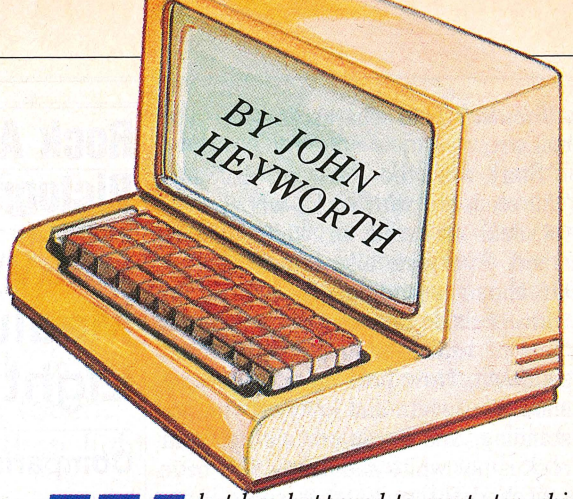
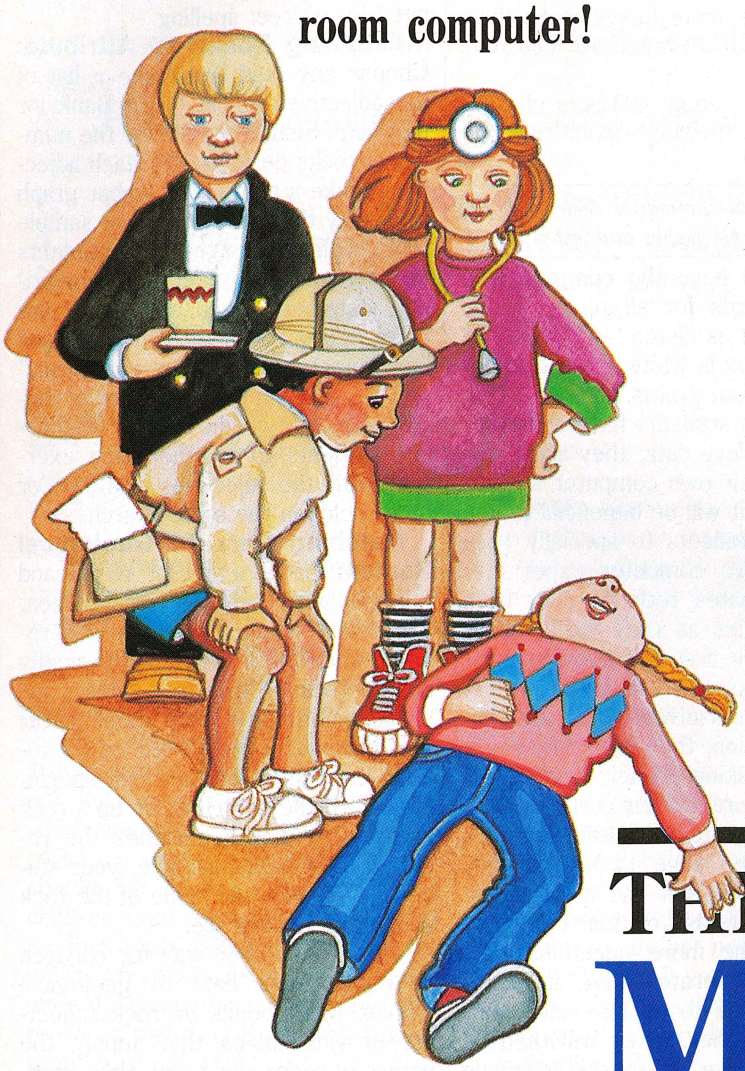
Classroom Computer Play

Superwoman, Batman, and Sherlock Holmes all make guest appearances in this humorous two-act play. . .but the star of the show is your classroom computer!





What has happened to computer whiz Megan Watt? Did someone murder her? Sherlock Holmes, Superwoman, Batman, and Robin are among the notable crime investigators who try to answer this question.

With the help of a Logo program, a real computer delivers lines (via its monitor) and makes music in this play, as it assumes an important role in investigating the mystery!

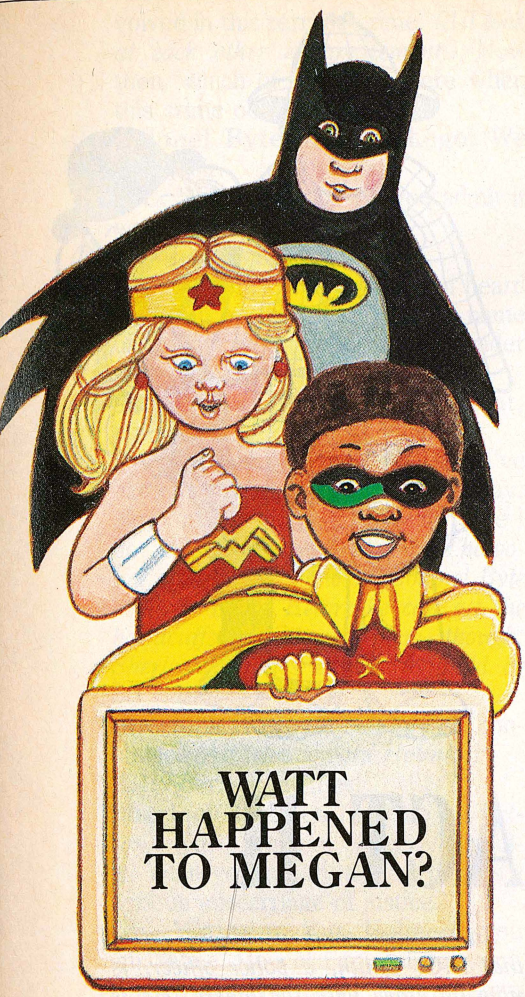
In order for the audience to easily see and hear the computer's reactions throughout the play, it is best to stage The Mystery of Megan Watt *in a small room, such as a classroom. Before performing the play in front of an audience, students should carry out several rehearsals. This will ensure that the computer program runs smoothly and that your actors are prepared for the computer's "actions" during the drama.*

The program procedures in this play were designed for use with Terrapin Logo. The program can be converted for use with other versions of Logo. However, some of the special musical effects may be lost in the process.

Permission is granted to make copies of this play and its program procedures for use by your students.

(Play begins on next page.)

THE MYSTERY OF MEGAN WATT



Thomas Sperling

CHARACTERS

Sir Logo, famous world traveler

Colonel Byte, Sir Logo's computer specialist

Megan Watt, computer whiz and the Colonel's niece

Syntax, the butler

Dr. Troubleshoot, a medical doctor

P.C. Smith, a police officer

Sherlock Holmes, detective

Dr. Watson, Holmes' sidekick

Superwoman, superheroine

Batman, superhero

Robin, Batman's sidekick

CPU, the computer

CPU's Helper (optional)

PROPS

You will need: your classroom computer and a table for it; three classroom chairs; two desks with assorted papers piled on them; Terrapin Logo Language diskette and Utilities Disk; the program listing on page 52 ; pad, pencil, and toy handcuffs for P.C. Smith; five or six empty paper cups for Syntax; a toy stethoscope for Dr. Troubleshoot.

COSTUMES

Costumes for this play should be kept simple. They need be no more than something by which to identify each character. For example, you may want to use a white doctor's jacket for Dr. Troubleshoot, a raincoat for Sherlock Holmes, a red cape for Superwoman, and so on.

PREPARATION:

Load Terrapin Logo into your computer. READ "MUSIC from your Utilities Disk. Then type in the procedures on page 52 . Save them on a blank, formatted diskette under the file name MYSTERY.

Set up your computer on its table, center stage. Arrange a chair at the keyboard so that when a user is seated there, his or her back is to the audience. Elevate the computer monitor by placing it on a shelf, or by putting some books underneath it. Everyone in the audience should be able to read the computer's "lines" without standing up and blocking the view of others. If it is not possible to elevate your computer monitor, assign one student to be the computer's helper. This student, who remains hidden either on or off stage, is responsible for repeating out loud all of the computer's "lines."

To one side of the computer, set up the two desks with assorted papers on them to represent a work area in an office. There are two chairs in the work area. With the exception of these simple furnishings, the stage remains bare.

To start the computer program, type MYSTERY. (Logo should already be loaded into your computer.) *"THE MYSTERY OF MEGAN WATT" BY JOHN HEYWORTH* should appear centered on the computer monitor.

TIME

The present.

SETTING

An office in Great Britain. *(Children may wish to use British accents for all of the characters except Superwoman, Batman, and Robin.)*

ACT I

Megan Watt is sitting at the computer with her back to the audience. She is not touching the keyboard. At the work area, Sir Logo and Colonel Byte are busy shuffling papers. All of a sudden, as if hit by a great idea, Megan sits up straight in her seat. With a large motion of her finger, she hits any key on the keyboard. The words "CPU AT WORK." appear on the screen. Megan is excited. She hits another key. The computer makes noises, and the words "IT DOES NOT COMPUTE." blink on and off repeatedly. Megan slumps back in her chair sadly. Colonel Byte turns from his work to speak with Megan.

Colonel Byte: I say, Megan, has the computer completed those calculations that I asked you to input? I'm just dying to know the shoe leather-per-kilometer rate of Sir Logo's last trek around the globe!

Megan *(turns to Colonel Byte)*: Not yet, Uncle Byte. I'm working as quickly as I can, but I'm afraid CPU is running a bit slowly today. *(Megan turns back and presses any key. After beeping for a moment, the noises stop, and the words "IT'S TEATIME. AREN'T WE GOING TO TAKE A BREAK NOW?" appear on the screen. Syntax the butler struts on stage, carrying three paper cups. He places a cup next to each of the three players on stage.)*

Syntax: Here you go, everyone. It's teatime.

Megan: Thank you, Syntax. *(Syntax struts out again. Megan drinks out of the cup.)*

Sir Logo *(turning to Colonel Byte)*: By the bye, Byte old chap, did you work out that time travel trek to the 21st century that you and I were talking about?

Colonel Byte: Time travel? Oh

(continued)

dear. . . . *(Colonel Byte looks down at his watch, then sighs with relief.)* You have plenty of time to prepare yourself. You're not due out for another. . .23 hours, 12 minutes, and 21 seconds. Plenty of time, plenty of time. No hurry at all. *(They all go back to work. Megan finishes her tea, puts the paper cup down, and presses another key. "SUDDENLY I FEEL VERY SLEEPY . . .YAWN-YAWN-YAWN." appears on the screen. Lullaby music begins to play. Megan stands bolt upright, completes a few half turns, makes a funny gurgling noise, and falls on the floor as though she has fainted. Colonel Byte and Sir Logo watch in horror as Megan's legs kick up once, twice, or three times. Finally she is still. Colonel Byte and Sir Logo jump up and run over to where Megan is lying on the floor.)*

Colonel Byte *(shaking Megan, as though to wake her up)*: Megan, Megan, are you all right? *(Megan does not move or react in any way.)*

Sir Logo: What's wrong with her?

Colonel Byte *(standing up)*: I don't know. It seems she's fainted. Sh. .sh. .sh. .she. .may even be d. .d. .dead!

Sir Logo *(standing up)*: Dead! She can't be! *(He looks down at Megan.)* Between you and me, Byte, I've never seen her looking better.

Colonel Byte: Yes, but she's not moving! *(Syntax returns, carrying two more paper cups.)*

Syntax: More tea, anyone? *(He notices Megan lying on the ground.)* Oh my goodness! What has happened to Megan?

Sir Logo: We don't quite know.

Colonel Byte: Syntax, please run for help. Call the police. Find a doctor. Do something!

Syntax: Yes, of course. Right away. Erm, gosh, gee whiz, golly. *(He rushes out.)*

Colonel Byte: Do you think that the computer might give us a clue as to what is going on?

Sir Logo: The computer? Are you kidding? A computer can't *see* anything. What in the world could it possibly tell us?

Colonel Byte: Well, you never know. *(Colonel Byte moves to the computer, which is "snoring" and playing lullaby music.)* Hey, computer! Wake up a minute. We need to ask you something! *(Colonel Byte presses a key. After a moment, there is a beeping noise. "YES? YES? CAN I HELP YOU?" appears on the screen. The Colonel pretends to type in. . . .)* What. . .has. . .happened. . .to . . .Megan? *(saying the words out loud slowly as he pretends to type them. As he pretends to press down the last letter in the word Megan, Colonel Byte really does press down a key. "YOU GOT ME. I ONLY KNOW WHAT YOU TELL ME, REMEMBER?" appears on the screen.)*

Sir Logo: What does it say?

Colonel Byte: It's not talking. Still, I think it may know more than it's letting on. Let me try one more time. *(The Colonel presses another key. The lullaby music begins again. "PLEASE! I NEED MY BEAUTY REST!" appears on the screen.)* Hmmph! Just what we needed! A vain computer! *(Syntax returns. Dr. Troubleshoot rushes in behind him.)*

Syntax: This is the patient, doctor. *(Dr. Troubleshoot sits down on the floor next to Megan and takes her pulse. There is a pause of silence.)* Will she live? Is she all right?

Dr. Troubleshoot: It's still too soon to tell. Tell me, what was she doing at the time of the accident?

Sir Logo: All she was doing was sitting over there *(he points to the computer)*, working at the terminal.

Dr. Troubleshoot: Ah-ha! A terminal illness! We'd better monitor her progress.

Syntax: Could it be a back problem? She *was* complaining of a slipped disk when we were traveling through Siberia recently.

Sir Logo: Are you sure you don't mean a floppy disk?

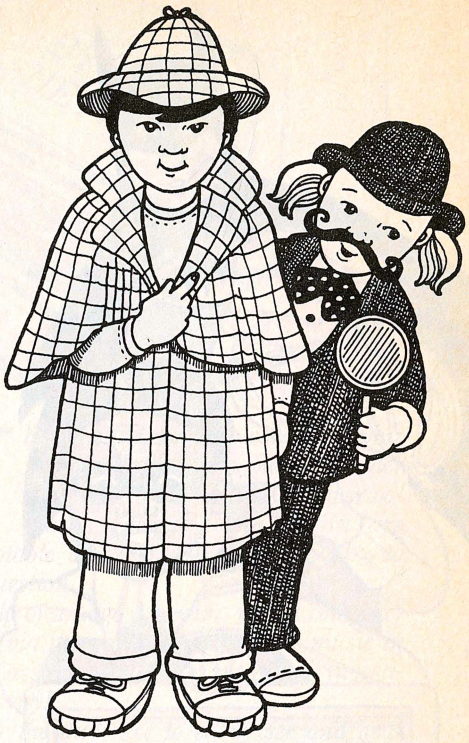
Dr. Troubleshoot: Hmmm. Her illness is not as BASIC as it first seemed.

Syntax: Then there was that bug she got in Bermuda. It was days before she was back up to her usual drive.

Colonel Byte: Could this be due to that RAM she wrestled in the Rockies?

Sir Logo: More likely it's all the chips she's been chomping since we've been back in Britain.

Syntax: Gentlemen, please! How silicon you all get! And with poor Megan lying here so ill!



ACT II

Same scene setup as above, except that P.C. Smith, a police officer, is now on stage with the others. He is holding a small pad and pencil and is furiously taking notes as the others speak.

P.C. Smith: Okay, okay, just one person at a time. Someone tell me what is going on here. First of all, what's the victim's name?

Syntax: Megan, sir.

P.C. Smith: Megan what?

Syntax: That's right, sir.

P.C. Smith: Megan what? What's her last name?

Syntax: Correct.

P.C. Smith: Are you deaf or something? I want to know that young woman's last name.

Syntax: Watt.

P.C. Smith *(in a louder voice than before)*: WHAT'S THIS YOUNG WOMAN'S LAST NAME?

Syntax: That's what I said sir.

P.C. Smith: Huh?

Syntax: No, Watt. Watt's her last name. W-A-T-T. Watt.

P.C. Smith: Watt? Well, why didn't you say so in the first place? Do you all know Watt?

All: Of course we do.

P.C. Smith: Just don't get fresh. I suspect that you people are all in-

volved in this terrible crime. *(All look at each other in amazement.)* Now then, which of you were here when this crime occurred?

Colonel Byte and Sir Logo: We were, sir.

P.C. Smith: Ah-ha! So you admit it was a crime?

Colonel Byte: We do not!

P.C. Smith: Oh yes you did. I heard you with my own ears. In the name of the law, you two villains are under arrest.

Sir Logo: But, but, but, but, but. . . .

P.C. Smith: No "buts" about it. I've had enough but-tering up for one day. Now, just hold still a moment while I get these handcuffs on you. *(The police officer moves toward Colonel Byte and Sir Logo. Before he can get the handcuffs on either of them, though, Sherlock Holmes enters, followed by his sidekick, Dr. Watson.)*

Sherlock Holmes: Not so fast, constable. *(All turn toward Holmes.)*

All: Sherlock Holmes!

Sherlock Holmes *(turning to Watson)*: Now, Watson, observe carefully. What you are witnessing here is a serious miscarriage of justice.

Dr. Watson: But Holmes, you amaze me. How can you tell so soon?

Sherlock Holmes: Elementary. *(He moves to the desks where Sir Logo and Colonel Byte had been working.)* Just as I thought. *(He picks up a sheet of paper and holds it up to the light.)* There is not even the slightest sign of sweat on this page. A worried murderer would have had clammy hands before committing such a crime.

Dr. Watson: Amazing! You make it sound so simple, Sherlock.

Sherlock Holmes: Not at all, Watson. One has only to use one's eyes and one's brain.

Dr. Watson: Then. . .you know who the murderer is?

Sherlock Holmes *(pacing the floor)*: There is only one person who could have committed this evil deed.

All: Who?

Sherlock Holmes: A person with a perfect alibi. A person not seen in the room, but whose presence earlier has caused this unfortunate death.

Dr. Watson: Come on, Holmes. Who did it?

Sherlock Holmes: The butler.

All: The butler? You mean Syntax?

Sherlock Holmes: I do indeed. *(He moves to the computer and picks up Megan's cup.)* I see you use paper cups and not glass for your drinks.

Dr. Troubleshoot: People who use glasses make spectacles of themselves.

Sherlock Holmes: Ah, but if this had been glass, perhaps Megan would have noticed the poison in her drink.

All: Poison!

Sherlock Holmes: Yes, poison administered by Syntax. Constable, arrest this butler.

Superwoman *(entering stage right)*: Not so fast, Sherlock.

All: Superwoman!

Superwoman: A clever theory, Sherlock, but not a bit of truth in it.

Dr. Troubleshoot: How can you tell, Superwoman?

Superwoman: Interesting that you of all people should ask me that, Dr. Troubleshoot.

Dr. Troubleshoot: Why is that?

Superwoman: Because with my X-ray vision I saw *you* inject Megan with a deadly poison as you pretended to take her pulse.

All: Dr. Troubleshoot?

Superwoman: Constable, arrest this doctor.

P.C. Smith: Right away, Superwoman. *(Batman and Robin enter stage left.)*

Batman: Not so fast, Superwoman.

All: Batman!

Batman: Dr. Troubleshoot did not kill Megan Watt. Someone has lined these walls with lead to muddle your vision.

Superwoman: But who could have done such a thing?

Robin: The same dastardly fiend who committed this murder.

Syntax: And who would that be?

Batman: Constable Smith.

All: P.C. Smith?

Batman: Yes. I've been on your trail for some time now, Smith. *You* murdered Megan so that you could earn fame and fortune by solving the mystery.

Syntax: How awful!

Robin: Suffering sassafras, Batman! This *is* awful. Imagine! An upholder of the law stooping that low!

Batman: Arrest yourself, constable. *(At this point, one of the actors should press a computer key without being seen. The computer makes attention-getting sounds and — if you have a color monitor — different colors blink on and off the screen.*

All: Look! What's that? It's the computer! *The actors all move back to give the computer more space. Finally the sounds and colors stop, and on the screen appears the message: "NOT SO FAST, BATMAN!"*

Colonel Byte: The computer has a message. *(All continue to stand back as the Colonel goes to the keyboard.)* Perhaps this complex machine of high technology will help us to solve our mystery.

Syntax: Hurry! Let's see what it has to say.

Colonel Byte: Right away. *(Colonel Byte presses a key. The computer responds with this message: "IT WAS I WHO KILLED MEGAN WATT."*

Colonel Byte: You? But how? *(He presses another key. On the computer appears the message "WITH 10,000 VOLTS OF MY ELECTRICITY."*

Syntax: Ten thousand volts! How shocking!

Dr. Troubleshoot: Poor Megan.

Superwoman: That sure is a lot of volts for one Watt.

P.C. Smith: Well, at least we have a confession at last.

Sir Logo: I suspected the computer from the very start.

Troubleshoot: It is not very user friendly, is it?

Colonel Byte: An evil machine is a dangerous thing.

Sherlock Holmes: I suppose we should arrest it at once.

P.C. Smith: Yes, I suppose we should. *(All start to move toward the computer. Just then, though, Megan wakes up.)*

Megan: Not so fast, everybody.

All *(turning to stare at her)*: A ghost!!

Megan: No it's not. It's me, Megan.

Colonel Byte: Megan? But. . .we all thought you were dead.

Megan *(looking pleased with herself)*: Well, I'm not. Good joke, huh?

Troubleshoot: You mean. . .there was nothing wrong with you?

Megan: No, not too much. I was just suffering from a slight case of D.O.S.

All: D.O.S.? What's that? Disk Operating System?

Megan: No. Dead-tired Operator Syndrome.

All: Dead-tired Operator Syndrome?

Megan *(stretching and yawning)*: Yes. And now that I'm refreshed, I might as well get back to work. *(Megan pushes through the small crowd gathered around her and sits at the computer. She presses a key on the keyboard. The message "YOU CALL THAT A JOKE! IT WAS IN TER-*

(continued)

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(continued from page 19)

RIBLE TASTE. . .AND IT WASN'T EVEN FUNNY." appears on the screen. There is a stunned silence. Then everyone chases Megan out of the chair and off stage. Before she runs, however, Megan presses one last key. There is a little music and the computer concludes the play with these words: "THE END."

(See the program listing on page 52.)

FOR DISCUSSION

The Mystery of Megan Watt is primarily a play for your students' enjoyment and for practice in reading and performing out loud. However, after the students in your class are familiar with the play, you may want to use the text as the basis of a discussion about computers. Here are some sample discussion questions you may want to bring up.

- CPU, the computer in the play, is depicted as almost lifelike. All one has to do is press a key or speak out loud and CPU responds as though it has heard and understood everything. Is this the way most computers really work? Are there any situations in which computers really do work this way?
- CPU seems to need a lot of rest after a bit of hard work. How realistic is this?
- When Syntax brings in the tea during break time, Megan remains at the computer while she drinks her tea. Is this what students should do in real life when they take a snack break from working at the computer? *(No.)* Were there any other computer center rules broken in the play? *(Some students might mention the way the characters run off stage at the end of the play without first removing the data disk and turning the computer off.)*
- Many of the jokes in *The Mystery of Megan Watt* are based on *puns*, or plays on words. What puns on computer words are there in the play? Make up other computer puns. How could you add them to the play?

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TYPES
F
RE DISKS

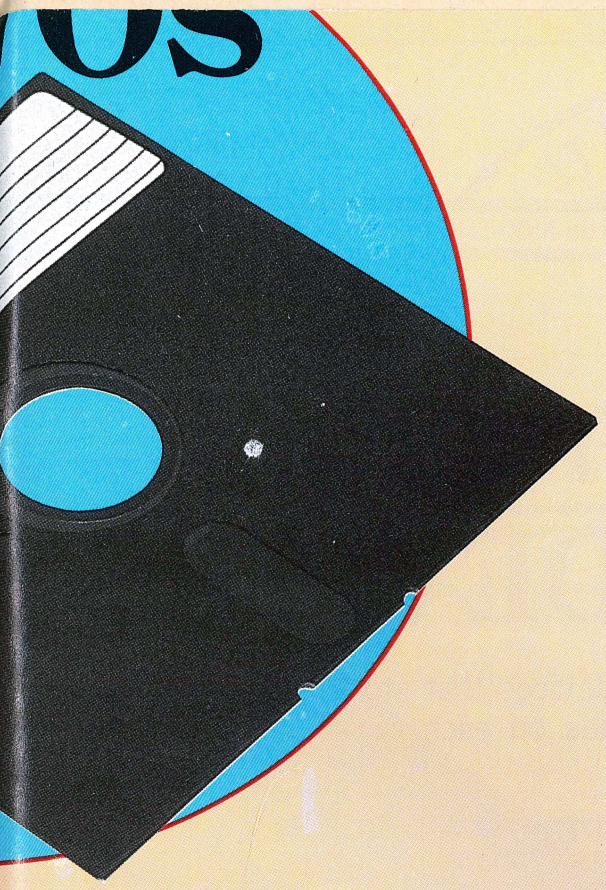
history — from punched cards to diskettes (or disks). Many modern software devices are in the form of disks. Below are three types of disks that are used today. How many have you used?

nted:
60s

ata Corp.

A hard disk is a round, flat piece of metal. It is about the size of a 33 1/3 RPM phonograph record. Several hard disks are often stacked to form a disk pack like the one in the picture at left. As many as 11 disks may be in a pack. The packs are used in a large disk drive that is connected to a computer. Some hard disk drives do not use disk packs. Instead, a single hard disk is built into the drive.

nted:
70s



Like a hard disk, a floppy disk is flat and round. However, it is made of plastic instead of metal. A floppy disk is much smaller than a hard disk and is covered with a square paper jacket to help protect it. It's called "floppy" because you can bend it back and forth (but don't try this; you might harm the disk). It runs on a floppy disk drive that is hooked up to a computer.

A laser videodisc is a flat, round piece of plastic that is about the size of a 33 1/3 RPM record. It can store pictures that show motion, much like a video cassette tape stores movies. Like a video tape, a laser videodisc can also store sound and written text. A single disc can hold all the words contained in 170,000 books. A laser videodisc runs on a laser videodisc player.

Teaching and Computers Poster Series
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The history of the future, part 1.

Surely, you remember the future.

After all, it wasn't that long ago. On our calendar, it started in 1977 with the introduction of the Apple® II personal computer.

In just ten years, the Apple II became the educational standard for computing. Today, there are over one million Apple II's in schools—more than all other personal computers combined.

How did we come so far, so fast?

By listening to your suggestions. By encouraging software developers to produce over 10,000 programs for the Apple II—including most every leading educational software package.

And by constantly evolving our products.

To understand where the Apple II came from is to understand where the Apple II is going.

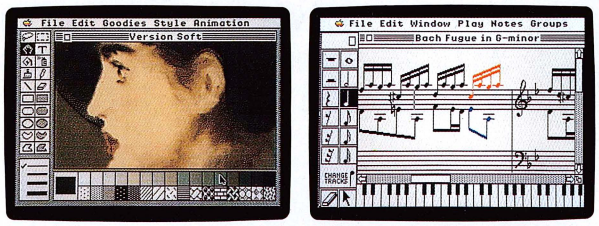
And to understand more about that, all you have to do is turn the page.

The history of the future, part 2.

As our second decade begins, Apple realizes that as your partner in education, we must find ways to make computers an integral part of day-to-day life in all facets of education – whether our users are children, high school students, teachers or administrators. So we'd like to let you in on our plans for the upcoming years.

First, we've updated our educational standard, the Apple IIe. It now has a new keyboard layout with a numeric keypad.

Then, there's the newest addition to the Apple II family – the Apple IIGS.™ A computer which combines all the reliability and expandability of the Apple IIe with some of the most advanced technology to date.

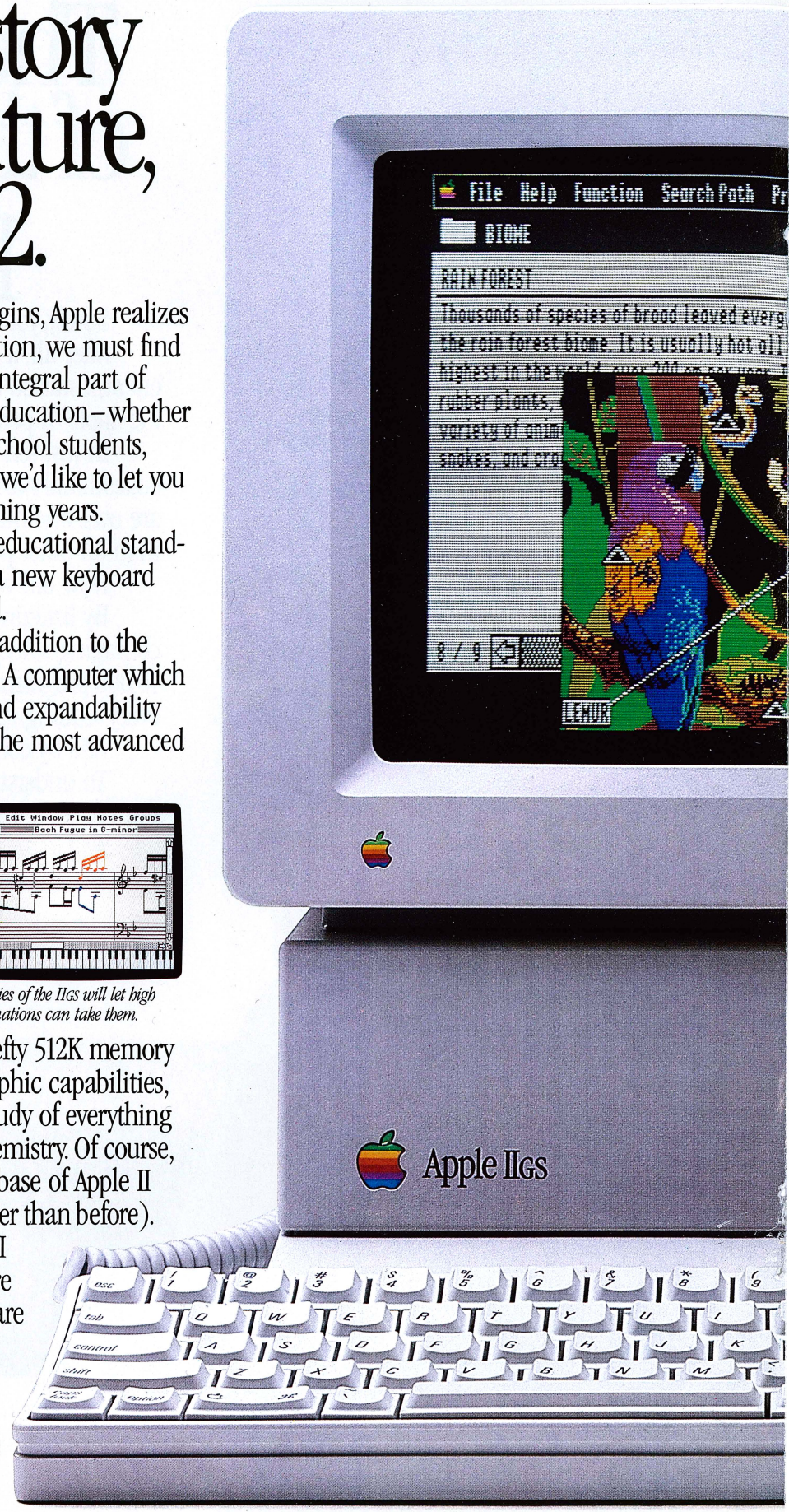


The amazing graphic and sound capabilities of the IIGS will let high school students go as far as their imaginations can take them.

The IIGS comes with a hefty 512K memory and incredible sound and graphic capabilities, which will enable in-depth study of everything from foreign languages to chemistry. Of course, the IIGS still runs the existing base of Apple II software (up to three times faster than before).

To help you fit the Apple II into your lesson plans, there are Apple's new Curriculum Software Reference Guides – in Science, Math, and Reading, Writing and Language Arts.

And there have been some impressive strides in software



technology. Teachers and students can now have everyday access to entire encyclopedias stored on compact disks and retrievable on Apple II's.

To further integrate Apples into everyday life, teachers will be able to make presentations, and students will be able to write reports, that include video and audio examples. All done on Apple II's.

The updated Apple IIe has a new keyboard that's just like the IIGS keyboard.

And Apple, with The National Geographic Society and Lucasfilm Ltd., is working on projects that will allow teachers and students to access a wealth of National Geographic photographs and illustrations, directly on their Apple II screens.

And if you'd like to talk shop (or any other subject) with teachers around the country, we're working on opening the doors to on-line communications that will provide you a forum for exchanging ideas.

That's where Apple's going in the future, and if you're wondering how to keep track of it all, relax. There's an Apple that can do that, too.

How to manage the future.

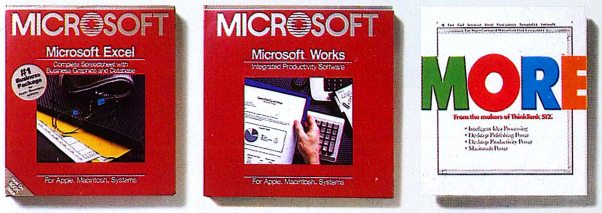
One of the biggest advantages in deciding on Apple is that we let you choose from a full line of products–from our Apple IIc, IIe, and IIGS, to the Apple which you see before you now.

The one powerful enough to help manage an entire school district.

With a Macintosh Plus and Apple Hard Disk 20SC, a school can be run as efficiently as a business.

The Macintosh™ personal computer.

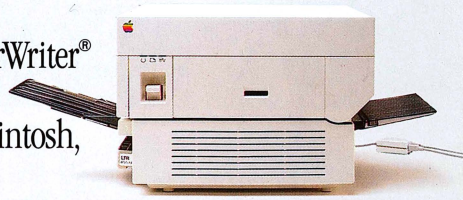
In case you haven't heard, Macintosh employs intuitive "point and click" mouse technology. So an entire school or district staff can learn to use Macintosh without costly training.



The best rated business software made runs exclusively on Macintosh.

Macintosh runs the best rated business software on the market. Whether you and your staff need to do spreadsheets on Microsoft® Excel, or outlining and planning on MORE,™ no computer will help your school run more like a business than Macintosh.

And now there's MacSchool,™ a new administrative software package designed to help principals and district level managers take care of everything from tracking attendance rolls to preparing budgets.



With a LaserWriter Plus printer, a Macintosh can print in hundreds of type styles and sizes.

When a LaserWriter® Plus printer is connected to your Macintosh, they form Apple's DeskTop Publishing System. Instantly, you will have the power to produce near-typeset quality text and graphics. You and your staff can create more persuasive presentations, professional looking correspondence, community newsletters and school board presentations.

And, with our DeskTop Publishing System, your students can put out newspapers and magazines that look like they were professionally typeset.

Well, that's as much of the future as we can discuss now. And what about predicting the winner of the '88 presidential race, or a day when all students will show up to class early? We're working on it.

The power to be your best.™

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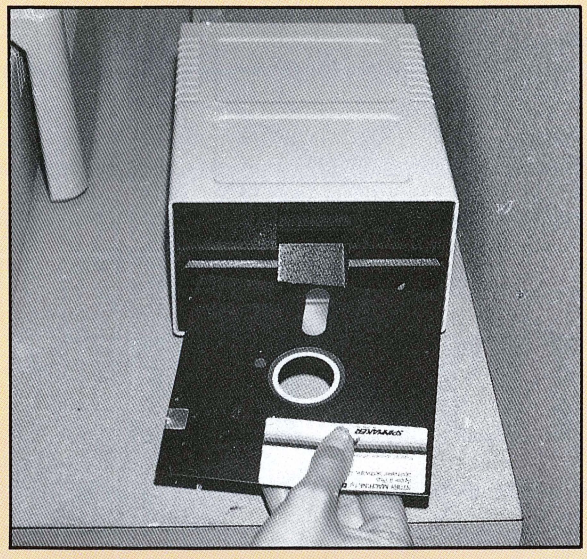
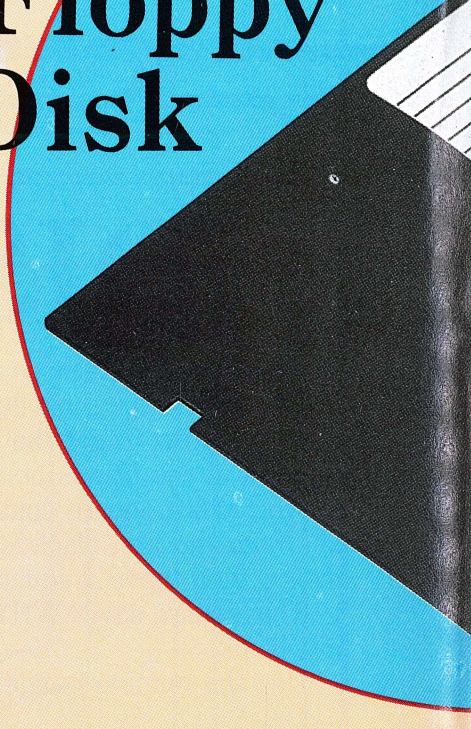


Floppy Disk Drive

19

Floppy Disk



Inve

19

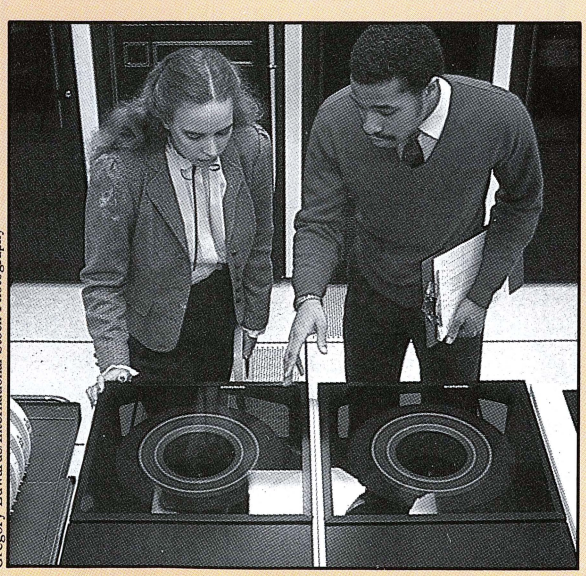
Laser Videodisc

Laser Videodisc Player

THREE
SOFTWA

Computers cannot do anything by themselves. They have to be told what to do and how to do it. They have to be given very special instructions. These instructions are called *software*.

Software has been stored on many different devices throughout



Gregory Edwards/International Stock Photography

Hard Disk Drive

Inv

19

Hard Disk

Cont

Inv

19

COPY

PRIMARY

WORKSHEET TO COPY AND USE WITH THIS MONTH'S POSTER

NAME: _____

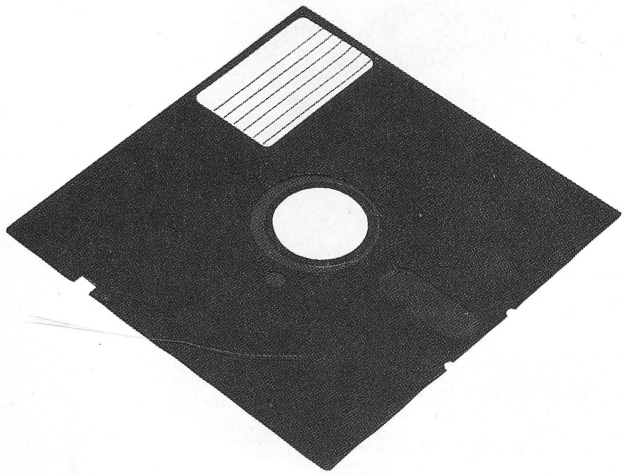
NAME THE SOFTWARE DEVICES

DIRECTIONS: Look at the software devices below. Write the name of each under its picture. Use the front of the poster for help.

_____

_____

_____



_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

WORD BOX

Floppy Disk
Hard Disk
Videodisc

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COPY

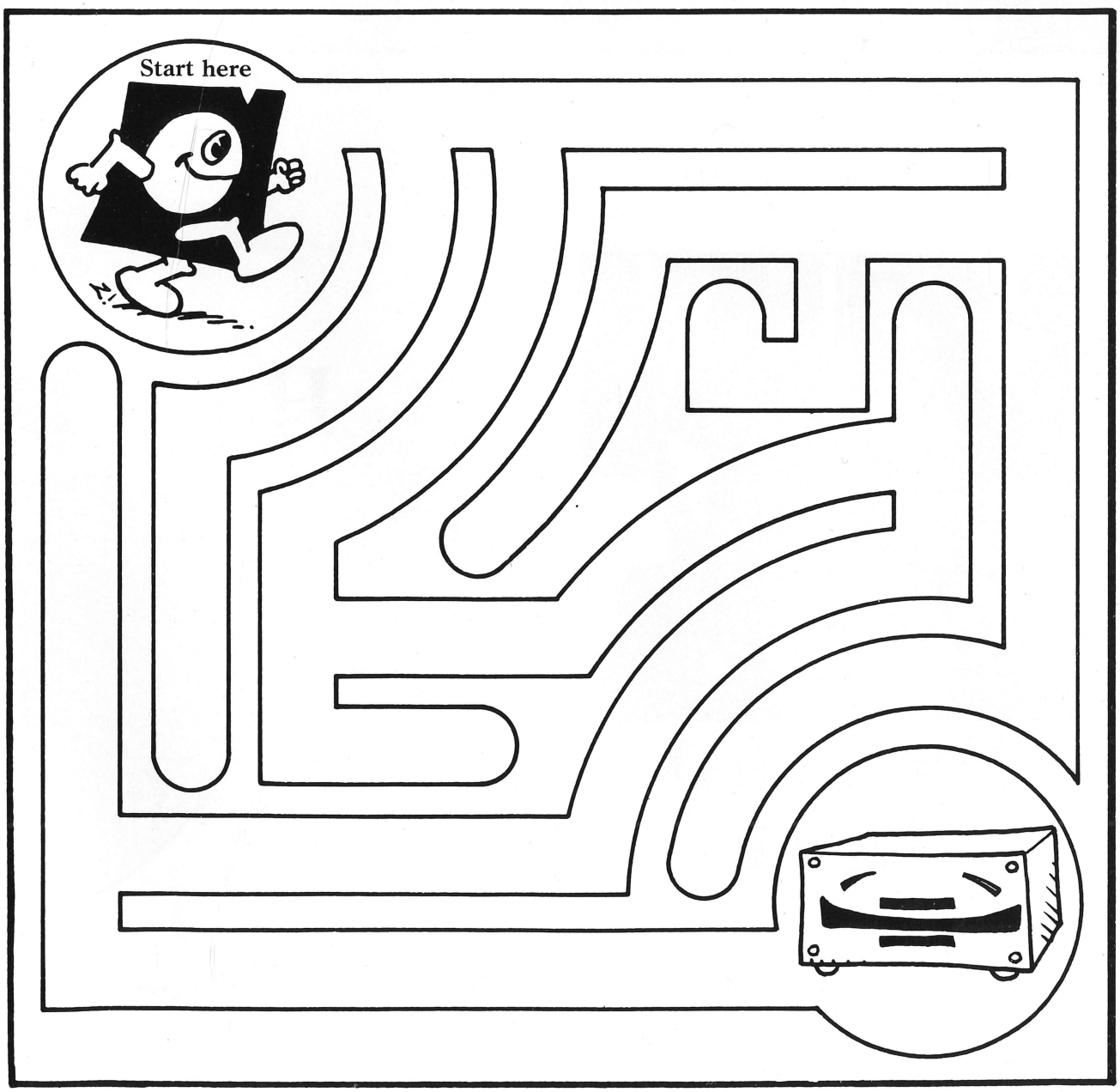
PRIMARY

WORKSHEET TO COPY AND USE WITH THIS MONTH'S POSTER

NAME: _____

FLOPPY DISK MAZE

DIRECTIONS: Look at the maze below. Color in the path that takes the floppy disk to its disk drive.



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COPY

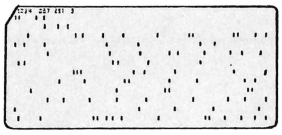
INTERMEDIATE

WORKSHEET TO COPY AND USE WITH THIS MONTH'S POSTER

NAME: _____

HISTORY OF SOFTWARE DEVICES

DIRECTIONS: Below is a list of some of the devices that store software. Use references to complete the information categories on each device. The first is done for you.

SOFTWARE DEVICE	APPROX. DATE INVENTED	A COMPUTER THAT HAS USED IT	PICTURE
PUNCHED CARD	1800s	Jacquard's Loom	
PAPER TAPE			
MAGNETIC TAPE REEL			
CASSETTE TAPE			
HARD DISK			
FLOPPY DISK			
LASER VIDEODISC			

COPY

INTERMEDIATE

WORKSHEET TO COPY AND USE WITH THIS MONTH'S POSTER

NAME: _____

DISK RIDDLE

DIRECTIONS: Each square in the grid below contains a word. If you put the words in the correct order, they will make up a riddle about disks.

Here is how to get the words in the right order:

1. Look at the blanks below the grid. Under each blank, find a pair of numbers. The numbers tell you which square contains the word for that blank.
2. Under the first blank is 2,1. To get to square 2,1, go to the starting arrow. Move 2 squares *across*; then move 1 square *down*.
3. This square says "WHY." "WHY" is the first word of the joke. Write the word "WHY" in the first blank.
4. Use the numbers under the next blank to find the next word of the joke, and so on.

	1	2	3	4
1	FLOPPY	WHY	SAVE	ARE
2	GOOD	COLLECTORS?	LIKE	TO
3	DISKS	BECAUSE	THINGS.	THEY

Write the words to the riddle in these blanks.

_____	_____	_____
2,1	**4,1**	**1,1**
_____	_____	_____
1,3	**1,2**	**2,2**
_____	_____	_____
2,3	**4,3**	**3,2**
_____	_____	_____
4,2	**3,1**	**3,3**

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

BY GREG WOODS

Here's how one class uses spreadsheet, word processing, and graphing software to manage a soda machine business.

TODAY, BUSINESSES OF all kinds rely on computers to help keep records, maintain the flow of goods and services, and plan for the future.

One type of computer software that is used widely in business is the electronic spreadsheet, an information table that allows business persons to electronically calculate and keep track of important figures. Business persons also use word processing software, which lets them perform a variety of text-related jobs from writing correspondence to designing forms. A third type of software that is used in the business world is graphing software, which helps business persons design graphs that demonstrate performance and projections in profits, sales, and so forth.

Linked together in a special teaching unit, these three types of software can be used to show elementary school students how basic math and language arts skills are used to manage a business in the real world. Such a teaching unit on business can also help underscore the importance of teamwork, responsibility, and paying careful attention to detail.

That's what Greg Woods' special education students at Horace Mann Middle School in West Allis, Wisconsin, learned when they used their computer to take charge of the school soda machine. Though the students have instructional levels that range from second through fifth grade, Greg managed to design a unit of study in which everyone "profited." In fact, the students continue to profit. The kids are still running the soda machine business—and very successfully at that. Greg tells his story this way. . . .

Last year our school secretary strained her back loading the school's soda machine, so this fall our principal asked me if my class would be willing to carry the soda from the stockroom to the cafeteria, and to load it into the machine.

The suggestion gave me an idea. I had just been trying to think of how to design a teaching unit on the "world of work." Why not organize my unit around the school's soda machine business? Why not have

(continued)

Slug Signorino

students operate the business themselves? Kids could stock the machine, count the change, keep track of inventory, order more soda by telephone, and use our classroom microcomputer for storing and analyzing all of the related data.

I outlined a plan and presented it to the principal. He gave me an immediate go-ahead, and so, almost before I knew it, my class was in business! The first step was to organize the soda machine "employees."

SODA BUSINESS TEAMS

Just as big businesses like IBM or AT&T organize their business people into teams that manage specific operations, I divided my students into several soda business teams and assigned separate responsibilities to each. Here are the teams and their duties.

Soda Teams: I organized a team of three to four students for each brand of soda available in our machine. Each of these teams carries a few six-packs of its soda from the stockroom to the cafeteria, estimates how many cans of its brand were sold out of the machine since loading it the previous day, replaces these cans with ones carried from the stockroom, returns any extra soda to the stockroom, figures its inventory (by subtracting what it just loaded in the machine from yesterday's inventory figure), and double-checks the inventory figure by counting the stock. One member from each team then records its current sales and inventory figures on a form we made on the word processor. We call the form the Business Sheet (see page 37 for a sample copy). The Business Sheet is posted on a classroom bulletin board. We keep the previous day's sheet next to it because we need some of "yesterday's" figures to calculate current inventory numbers.

Machine Team: Gets the key to the soda machine and the moneybag from the

BLANK SPREADSHEET FORM

Soda Business — Sales (cans loaded)

Date	Collected	Paid	Pepsi	Pep Lt	M.Dew	D.P.Fr	Slice	R.Beer	Totals
Mon 1									
Tue 2									
Wed 3									
Thu 4									
Fri 5									
Mon 8									
(etc.)									

COMPLETED SPREADSHEET FORM

Soda Business
October, 1985 — Sales (cans loaded)

Date	Collected	Paid	Pepsi	Pep Lt	M.Dew	D.P.Fr	Slice	R.Beer	Totals
Tue 1	$10.45		6	0	4	6	2	4	22
Wed 2	$15.35		14	6	3	9	0	0	32
Thu 3	$19.70	$12.00	20	7	5	6	2	8	48
Fri 4	$28.05		12	1	10	6	12	11	52
Mon 7	$35.15		20	5	18	8	7	12	70
Tue 8	$14.65		6	4	4	10	4	6	34
Wed 9	$14.60	$72.00	7	6	2	10	3	4	32
Thu 10	$8.95		4	2	1	9	0	3	19
Fri 11	$16.85		8	4	9	5	2	6	34
Mon 14	$29.95		24	0	5	16	13	8	66
Tue 15	$18.60		8	5	9	7	4	8	41
Wed 16	$13.55		8	8	5	5	0	4	30
Thu 17	$12.50		5	4	5	12	0	1	27
Fri 18	$16.50		17	7	7	5	3	33	72
Mon 21	$25.95		22	3	6	3	7	15	56
Tue 22	$7.45	$66.00	7	4	3	4	1	0	19
Wed 23	$10.30	$18.00	4	6	4	6	1	3	24
Thu 24	Teacher's Convention								0
Fri 25	Teacher's Convention								0
Mon 28	Conferences								0
Tue 29	Conferences								0
Wed 30	$56.55		37	19	15	23	12	20	126
Thu 31	$10.15		6	6	6	3	2	0	23
Totals	$365.25	$168.00	235	97	121	153	75	146	827
Profit	$197.25								

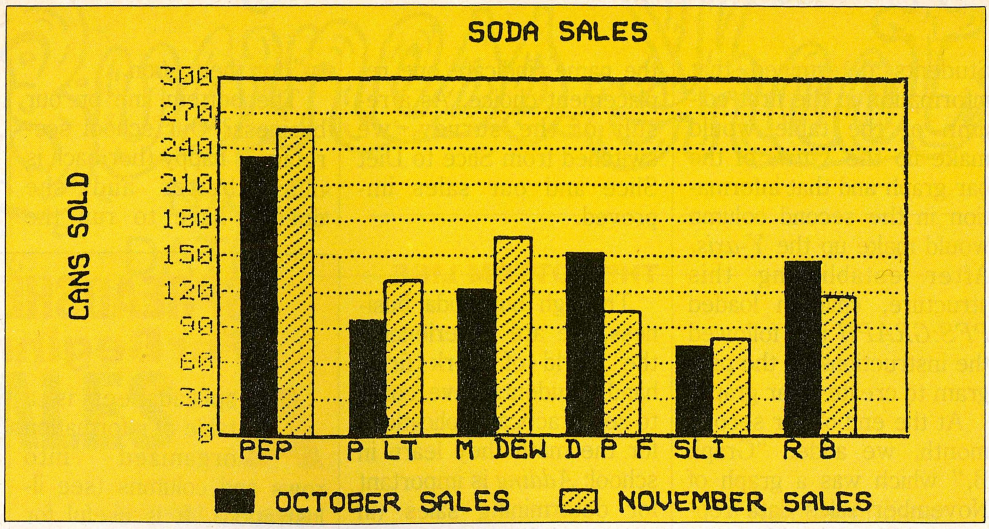
Average - Monday Sales	64	Total Sales - Week 1	154
Tuesday Sales	29	Week 2	189
Wednesday Sales	24	Week 3	236
Thursday Sales	29	Week 4	99
Friday Sales	53	Week 5	149

We used the spreadsheet capabilities of AppleWorks *software to create this spreadsheet form (top). Then, each day, the computer team entered its information. At the end of the month, we entered formulas to add up each column, and printed out the completed spreadsheet (bottom).*

office, opens the machine, refills the change machine with nickels (if needed), closes the machine and makes sure it's locked (very important), wraps up the money once it is counted and puts it in the moneybag, and finally, returns the moneybag and key to the office.

Inventory Team: Uses figures on the Business Sheet to keep tabs on the total soda inventory. This includes estimating needs and reordering soda by phone from distributors.

Computer Team: Boots up the Soda Spreadsheet (see "Designing Our Spreadsheet" section for details); uses the Business Sheet to enter into the spreadsheet all daily figures for soda sales, money collected from the soda machine, and money paid to soda distributors. One student then types in a formula that totals the number of all brands (in cans) sold that day and presents the sum in the cell at the far right of the sheet. Team members also use *PFS: GRAPH* to make graphs of monthly spreadsheet results (see "Graphing the Results" section).



We used PFS:GRAPH *to create a graph similar to this one. The graph shows a side-by-side comparison of soda brand sales in the months of October and November. By looking at this visual representation, kids were easily able to identify a leading seller—Pepsi.*

DESIGNING OUR SPREADSHEET

Every class these days has at least one computer fanatic, and mine is named Arnie. Arnie and I had a great time designing a spreadsheet on which to record our sales data. (If you are unfamiliar with electronic spreadsheets, see the sidebar entitled "Spreadsheet Primer.") First, we discussed what data we wanted to record. We decided it would be helpful to have numerical values each day of the week for: (1) the amount of money collected from the machine; (2) the amount of money paid to soda distributors; (3) the number of cans sold for each brand of soda; and (4) the total number of cans (all brands) sold.

We used the spreadsheet capabilities of *AppleWorks* software to incorporate these categories into a spreadsheet outline that contains the rows and columns you see at the top of page 34. We wanted our data to be easy to understand so we narrowed our columns until labels for all 11 desired columns could fit across one screen width. We inserted a blank row between each week's data and, when listing dates, included the name and number of each day of the week.

We used *AppleWorks* software to make our spreadsheet form because it is simple and straighforward, and also because it is what we had. However, you could produce a similar form by using just about any major spreadsheet program.

We saved the blank form to disk under the file name SODAFORM. To keep track of our first month's sales, we made a copy of the blank form and named it OCTOBERSALES. We had to adjust the dates (names and numbers of the days) that formed the rows on this form to correspond with the current October calendar. We also indicated the dates on which we would not be doing business, such as holidays and conference days, by inserting the reason in the cell(s) next to each such date. (See the October spreadsheet at the bottom of page 34.)

Each month we follow the same method for making a sales spreadsheet form.

CREATING A MONTHLY REPORT

At the end of the first month, we drew a line under the spreadsheet data and entered formulas that calculated a monthly total for each column.

Then we drew a line under these totals and used formulas to calculate profit, average sales for each day of the week, and exact sales for each week. We hoped that calculating average sales by day could help us estimate how much soda to carry to the cafeteria on a given day of the week, and that calculating average weekly sales could help us decide when to reorder different soda brands. (See spreadsheet at the bottom of page 34.)

We printed out a copy of this version of our spreadsheet for each student. Children referred to the printout throughout the next month as they made soda business decisions. We called the printout our Monthly Sales Report.

At the end of each month, we continue to create and print out a Monthly Sales Report for classmates.

A GRAPH OF OUR SALES

The Computer Team used data from the first Monthly Sales Report and *PFS:GRAPH* software to produce a bar graph of our sales.

As a first step, the team used paper and pencil to organize data into a simple table. In one column, the team listed the soda brand names; in the second column, the number of cans sold.

SALES DATA TABLE

SODA	CANS SOLD
PEP	6
PEP LT	0
M DEW	4
D P FR	6
SLICE	2
R BEER	4

(continued)

Students determined that information in the first column of the table would make up the *X-axis* of the bar graph and that information in the second column would make up the *Y-axis*. After establishing this structure, children loaded *PFS:GRAPH* and followed the instructions on the program to create a bar graph.

At the end of our second month, we added "Graph B," which was a graph of November sales data represented in striped bars, to the October graph, which had data represented in solid bars (see graph on page 35). This gave us a side-by-side comparison of sales by brand in the months of October and November. By looking at this visual representation, kids were easily able to identify a leading seller—Pepsi.

The Computer Team continues to create graphs that depict sales.

SURVEYING OUR MARKET

The Computer Team was so impressed with its first two-month graph that members printed out a version and taped it on the soda machine where our customers could see it. After studying the chart carefully, the team identified a brand that was not moving. That brand was Slice. Two team members wanted to know if we could switch to a different brand that might sell better. I suggested they conduct a "market survey " to find a brand of soda that the "market" (the student body and faculty) would prefer.

The kids posted a chart on the soda machine. At the top of the chart was a list of possible soda replacements for Slice. The chart provided a space for each customer to print his or her name, and next to the name, indicate one replacement choice. As a result of the survey, we switched from Slice to Diet Slice and our sales improved.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Through our soda business, we are experiencing the world of work firsthand. Students have come to see practical applications for the math they learn in school: *Adding* is important for determining sales (in cans) and for counting the soda money. *Subtracting* is needed to update inventory. *Graphing* is used to understand sales figures. *Estimating* helps stockers load soda cans quickly. *Averaging* helps measure daily sales.

Our business has also been a good vehicle for expressive language development. Many of my students have had the opportunity to order soda, request maintenance for the machine, and even give short business presentations about our sales and our marketing survey.

Most importantly, through the day-to-day running of a small business, kids are learning responsibility. They know they are directly accountable for careful handling of materials, record keeping, and accounting. And they have figured out that teamwork and accuracy can help them meet their responsibilities.

Not every student always acts in a completely responsible manner, however. Occasionally, some kids goof off while loading the machine, taking inventory, or such. I have fired two children already for being rowdy, though I rehired them a week later.

I plan to reward the positive behavior demonstrated by most of my students by hosting a "business party" for them soon.

The bottom line on our business? Our school secretary is happy (her back is much better and she doesn't have to run the soda business any longer); the principal is impressed with the experience students are gaining; and the kids are enjoying the hands-on experience! ■

SPREADSHEET PRIMER For Beginners Only

A spreadsheet is a table of information organized into rows and columns (see illustration). It is useful for calculating numbers and interpreting information. A spreadsheet can be drawn on paper or created on a computer, using a software program designed for this purpose. A computerized spreadsheet is more efficient than a paper spreadsheet because it can do all calculations automatically and because it allows you to move, erase, and insert characters easily.

In a spreadsheet, each intersection of a row and column forms a *cell*. Cells are identified by letter and/or number coordinates, such as A1 or 2,2. (The column number or letter generally comes first; the row number or letter, second.)

Each cell holds one piece of information. The information can be made up of either words (*labels*), numbers (*values*), or formulas.

Figure 1
Milk Money Collection

	A	B
1		AMOUNT
2	SANDY	0.25
3	PETER	0.50
4	STEPHANIE	0.00
5	TOTAL	B2+B3+B4

This simple spreadsheet keeps track of milk money from three students. The formula in cell B5 tells the computer to add the values in B2, B3, and B4.

The sample spreadsheet in Figure 1 keeps track of students' milk money. Cells A2 to A5 and cell B1 hold the labels SANDY, PETER, STEPHANIE, TOTAL, and AMOUNT. Cells B2 to B4 hold the values for the milk money paid ($.25, $.50, and $.00). Cell B5 holds the formula for totaling the milk money paid (B2+B3+B4). The formula tells the computer to add up the values in cells B2, B3, and B4. (In many spreadsheet programs, formulas are preceded by a symbol, such as a + sign or an = sign. Formulas may vary in other ways.)

As soon as the formula is entered, the computer makes the calculation and displays the result in cell B5. (See Figure 2.)

Figure 2
Milk Money Collection

	A	B
1		AMOUNT
2	SANDY	0.25
3	PETER	0.50
4	STEPHANIE	0.00
5	TOTAL	0.75

Once the formula is entered, the computer automatically makes the calculation and shows the answer in cell B5.

If you change any of the values in cells B2, B3, or B4, the computer will automatically recalculate the total and display the new total in place of the old total in cell B5. For example, if Stephanie gives you $.50 for milk, you enter the amount in cell B4. The computer adds $.25, $.50, and $.50 to get the new total of $1.25.

Business Sheet

COPY

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SALES

	Number of cans:		Number of cans:
Pepsi	_____	**Diet Pepsi Free**	_____
Pepsi Lite	_____	**Slice**	_____
Mountain Dew	_____	**Root Beer**	_____

DELIVERIES

	Number of cans:		Number of cans:
Pepsi	_____	**Diet Pepsi Free**	_____
Pepsi Lite	_____	**Slice**	_____
Mountain Dew	_____	**Root Beer**	_____

INVENTORY

	Number of cans:		Number of cans:
Pepsi	_____	**Diet Pepsi Free**	_____
Pepsi Lite	_____	**Slice**	_____
Mountain Dew	_____	**Root Beer**	_____

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WRITER'S CORNER

WORD PROCESSING TASK CARDS

Story Plots

TEACHER'S NOTES

Each month the "Writer's Corner" column supplies you with four student activity cards that provide practice with creative writing skills. A different element of creative writing is explored each month. This month, for example, we focus on how to create interesting story plots.

Each column requires you to create a data file. You may want to save the files each month on the same diskette.

PREPARATION

1. Cut out and laminate the four task cards on the pages that follow.
2. Using a word processor, type the data file that appears on this page.
3. Save the file on a diskette under the file name PLOT.
4. Before you have your students use this month's task cards, you may first want to teach or review these terms: *plot, characters, outline, details, description, dialogue.*
5. Your students will also need to know how to use your word processing program to INSERT, DELETE, and MOVE text.

TASK CARD ACTIVITIES

Task Card 1: Children arrange a series of sentences in a logical sequence. *(Answer: When I woke up this morning, I knew it was going to be a hot day. I decided to go to the beach. I packed a beach bag with a sandwich, a towel, and suntan lotion. Then I left my house. When I got to the beach, the first thing I did was build a sand castle. After I made the sand castle, I decided to spread my towel out and rest. When I spread my towel out on the sand, out jumped my kitten, Oodles.*

Task Card 2: Students provide an ending to a plot outline about Oodles the kitten.

Task Card 3: Children create a plot outline for a story they would like to write. Story suggestions are given.

Task Card 4: Children write a story using the outline created in the last activity. ■

BY JACKIE GLASTHAL

PLOT DATA FILE

SECTION #1:

DIRECTIONS: Marjorie Mixup is trying to tell you about a day she spent at the beach. What she is saying is all mixed up, though. See if you can help her out. Use the MOVE *command in your word processing program to rearrange the order of the sentences so that they make sense.*

WHEN I SPREAD MY TOWEL OUT ON THE SAND, OUT JUMPED MY KITTEN, OODLES.

AFTER I MADE THE SAND CASTLE, I DECIDED TO SPREAD MY TOWEL OUT AND REST.

I PACKED A BEACH BAG WITH A SANDWICH, A TOWEL, AND SUN-TAN LOTION.

I DECIDED TO GO TO THE BEACH.

WHEN I GOT TO THE BEACH, THE FIRST THING I DID WAS BUILD A SAND CASTLE.

WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING, I KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE A HOT DAY.

THEN I LEFT MY HOUSE.

SECTION #2:

DIRECTIONS: Read the list of events, or plot outline, that follows. This time all the events are in the correct order. But there is no ending. What do you think might happen next? Type in your answer after the number 5.

PLOT OUTLINE

1. MARJORIE'S KITTEN, OODLES, RAN TOWARD THE WATER.

2. OODLES SAW THAT A MEAN-LOOKING DOG WAS SWIMMING TOWARD SHORE.

3. OODLES DUG A HOLE IN THE SAND TO HIDE FROM THE DOG.

4. THE DOG GOT OUT OF THE WATER. IT STARTED TO SNIFF AROUND THE HIDING PLACE.

5.

SECTION #3:

DIRECTIONS: Write a plot outline for a story you would like to write. If you can't think of a story to write about, select one of the story ideas below. Use the plot outline in Section #2 as a model.

STORY IDEAS:

"The Day I Found A Million Dollars"
"The First Time I Tried to Bake a Cake"
"How I Caught a Fish in an Unsual Way"
"How I Saved My Best Friend's Life"
"A Very Exciting Vacation Story"

Begin the plot outline for your story here:

Use a word processing program to create the file above.

CUT OUT AND LAMINATE

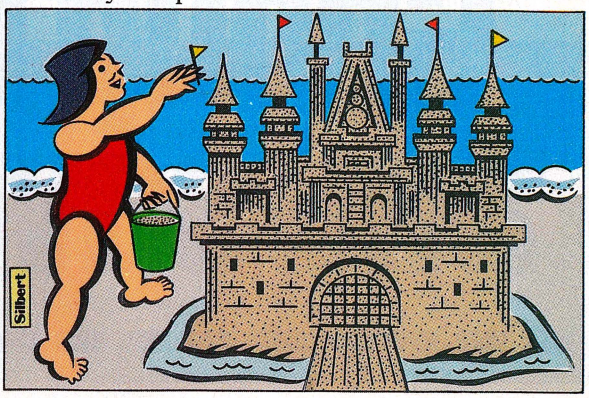
WRITING 1

TOPIC: PLOT

Comes First Which?

It's always fun to hear stories, right? That goes without saying. But what if someone is telling you a story and you suddenly realize that he or she is not telling the events of the story in correct order? You wouldn't enjoy *that* story very much, would you? You would probably feel (especially if it's a long story) very confused. "This story sounds like it might be pretty good," you think. "I sure wish that I knew what was going on!"

1. Boot up your word processing program. Load the data disk, and call up the PLOT data file.
2. Read Section #1 in the data file. Marjorie Mixup is trying to tell you a story about a day she spent at the beach. Everything she says is all mixed up, though. Her sentences do not follow one another in a logical order. See if you can help her out. Use the MOVE command in your word processing program to rearrange the sentences so that the order in which the events occur makes sense.
3. Check your answer with your teacher.
4. Save your work on a blank disk. We will call this disk your personal disk.



WRITING 2

TOPIC: PLOT

What Happened?

Complete Task Card 1 before you try the activity on this card.

If you have ever been sent to bed before the end of a good television show, you know the feeling of missing out on an ending. Endings are very important. They are also fun to write. In this activity, you have a chance to do just that—come up with the ending to a story.

1. Boot up your word processing program. Load the data disk and call up the PLOT data file.
2. Read the list of events given in Section #2 of the data file. The events are listed in order. What do you think might happen next? Type your answer in the space provided.
3. Save your work on your personal disk.

Bill Silbert

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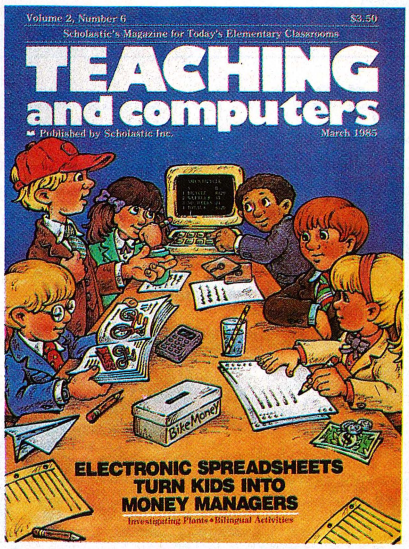

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CUT OUT AND LAMINATE

WRITING 3

TOPIC: PLOT

Outline A Plot

Complete Task Card 2 before you try the activity on this card.

There is a special name for the events in a story. Together, they are called the story's *plot.* How do writers create plots for their stories? Some writers think about something that happened to them or to someone they know. Other times the writer just looks into his or her imagination and makes something up.

When a writer makes a list of events he or she wants to have happen in a story, the writer is creating a *plot outline.* Writers are careful about what events go into their stories. They are also careful about the order that the events are in.

1. Boot up your word processing program. Load the data disk and call up the PLOT data file.
2. Look at Section #3 in the data file. In this space, write a plot outline for a story. Five story ideas are given. Select one of these or make up your own story idea. Remember to list your events in order and to use complete sentences. Use the plot outline in Section #2 as a model.
3. Save your work on your personal disk.

WRITING 4

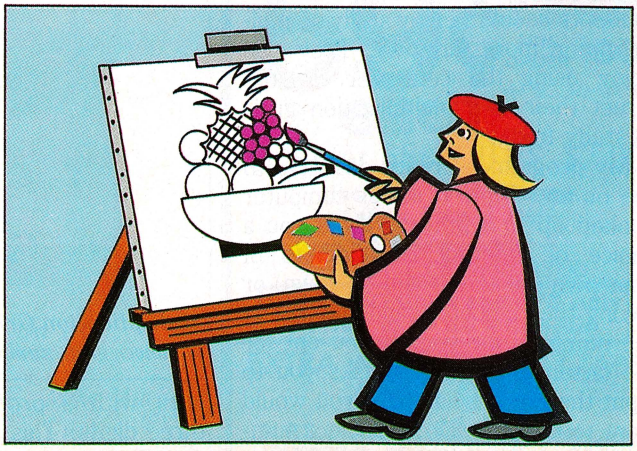
TOPIC: PLOT

Color In The Details

Complete Task Card 3 before you try the activity on this card.

Once a writer has created a plot outline, he or she is ready to turn the plot outline into a story. The writer does this by giving *details* about each of the events in the story. A plot outline for a writer is like a sketch is for a painter. After making a sketch, the artist then goes back and colors in details. The picture is not ready to be shown to friends or hung on the wall until the details are colored in.

1. Boot up your word processing program. Load the data disk and call up the PLOT data file.
2. Go back to the outline you created in Section #3 of your data file. Press the RETURN key two or three times between each sentence in your outline. Use this empty space between the sentences to add details to your story. These details will turn your story outline into a story. Some of the details you may want to add include dialogue, character descriptions, and descriptions of the setting.
3. Save your work on your personal disk.



MICRO IDEAS

QUICK COMPUTER TIPS AND ACTIVITIES

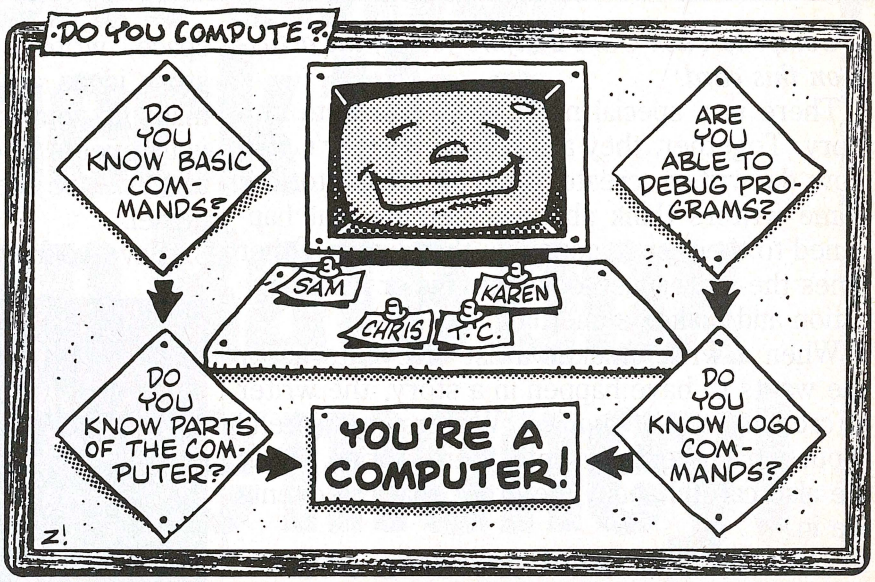
COMPUTER GAME AND BULLETIN BOARD

Here's a bulletin board that you can use any time of year. I have found that it helps motivate students to learn more about the computer and programming.

Construct a computer out of paper, omitting the keys. Tack it up in the center of a bulletin board already covered with construction paper of a contrasting color.

Arrange diamond-shaped flowchart symbols on the bulletin board to the right and left of your paper computer. On each symbol write a general question about computer literacy such as "Do you know BASIC commands?" and "Are you able to debug programs?" Cut a rectangular flowchart symbol out of another color construction paper. Write within it the words "You're a Computer!" Place it on the bulletin board underneath your paper computer. Staple arrow symbols onto the bulletin board between the diamond-shaped symbols so that they all lead to this rectangular one.

At the top left of the bulletin board hang a small sign with the question "Do You Compute?" written on it.



Challenge your students to add their own personalized "key" to a giant keyboard display.

Have each child in your room create a computer key shape out of colored construction paper. Each child should write his or her name on a key. Now go around the room asking each student one computer-related question such as "What is a program bug?" or "What is the difference between a PRINT and an INPUT statement?" If a student answers correctly, allow the child to go to the bulletin board and tack his or her name key anywhere on the paper keyboard that he or she wishes. If the child answers incorrectly, he or she must wait and try answering another question correctly after everyone else has had a turn. Play the game until every student has placed his or her name key on the board.

Laura C. Bullock
Peoria, IL

PROGRAM GENERATES MULTIPLICATION GRIDS

A fellow math teacher asked me to write a BASIC program for him that would generate multiplication grids with answers written in. Rather than make up a new multiplication chart each week, he uses the grids to make up the multiplication tables for him. Students seem to enjoy studying multiplication more this way. They also enjoy using the computer to construct their own multiplication grids to study from.

My program, at right, designed to run on any Apple II series computer hooked up to a printer, gives you a choice of entering 20 numbers of your own (10 across and 10 down) or having the computer randomly select the numbers for you. If you opt for the latter, the program asks you to input the highest numbers you would want to multiply. Do not select numbers with a product greater than three digits. This will throw the grid pattern out of alignment.

(See program listing at right.)

X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

X	9	3	7	5	1	6	4	2	8	10
8	72	24	56	40	8	48	32	16	64	80
10	90	30	70	50	10	60	40	20	80	100
2	18	6	14	10	2	12	8	4	16	20
7	63	21	49	35	7	42	28	14	56	70
3	27	9	21	15	3	18	12	6	24	30
4	36	12	28	20	4	24	16	8	32	40
5	45	15	35	25	5	30	20	10	40	50
6	54	18	42	30	6	36	24	12	48	60
1	9	3	7	5	1	6	4	2	8	10
9	81	27	63	45	9	54	36	18	72	90

Multiplication Grids: *These grids were created with the program listing on page 43. In the lower grid, numbers to be multiplied were randomly selected by the computer.*

Ron Zalme

PROGRAM LISTING FOR MULTIPLICATION GRIDS

Use this listing to create multiplication grids like those displayed on the bottom of page 42.

```
1  REM FILENAME: X.GRID
10 D$ =  CHR$ (4):BELL$ =  CHR$ (7):S$ = "              ": REM 12 SPACES
20  TEXT : HOME
30  INVERSE : HTAB 7: PRINT "10 X 10 MULTIPLICATION GRID": PRINT : HTAB 16
     : PRINT "GENERATOR": NORMAL
40  VTAB 8: HTAB 8: PRINT "<1> INPUT ACROSS/DOWN NOS."
50  VTAB 11: HTAB 8: PRINT "<2> RANDOM ACROSS/DOWN NOS."
60  VTAB 14: HTAB 8: PRINT "<3> QUIT"
70  VTAB 19: HTAB 1: PRINT "WHICH? < >": VTAB 19: HTAB 9: GET MENU$:MENU =
     VAL (MENU$): IF  NOT (MENU) OR MENU > 3 THEN  VTAB 19: HTAB 1: CALL
      - 958: GOTO 70
80  ON MENU GOTO 120,280,770
90  REM ------------------
100  REM INPUT ACROSS/DOWN
110  REM ------------------
120  HOME :HA = 10:HD = 10: GOSUB 1000: PRINT BELL$
130  INVERSE : PRINT "ACROSS NUMBERS": PRINT : PRINT : NORMAL
140  FOR X = 1 TO 10
150  IF X < 10 THEN  HTAB 2
151  IF X > 9 THEN  HTAB 1
152  IF X > 99 THEN  HTAB 0
160  PRINT X;" ==> ";: INPUT "";A(X)
170  NEXT
180  HOME : PRINT BELL$
190  INVERSE : PRINT "DOWN NUMBERS": PRINT : PRINT : NORMAL
200  FOR X = 1 TO 10
210  IF X < 10 THEN  HTAB 2
211  IF X > 9 THEN  HTAB 1
212  IF X > 99 THEN  HTAB 0
220  PRINT X;" ==> ";: INPUT "";D(X)
230  NEXT
240  GOTO 540
250  REM ------------------
260  REM RANDOM ACROSS/DOWN
270  REM ------------------
280  HOME :R =  RND ( - ( PEEK (78) +  PEEK (79) * 256))
290  VTAB 9: INPUT "HIGHEST ACROSS NUMBER: ";HA
300  IF HA < 10 THEN HA = 10
310  VTAB 11: INPUT "HIGHEST DOWN NUMBER: ";HD
320  IF HD < 10 THEN HD = 10
330  GOSUB 1000
340  HOME : VTAB 10: PRINT "PLEASE WAIT.": VTAB 12: PRINT "GRID NUMBERS AR
      E BEING SELECTED..."
350  FOR B = 1 TO HA
360 X =  INT ( RND ( PEEK (78) +  PEEK (79) * 256) * (HA + 1))
370  IF  NOT X THEN 360
380  FOR C = 1 TO HA - 1
390  IF X = A(C) THEN C = HA - 1: NEXT : GOTO 360
400  NEXT
410 A(B) = X
420  NEXT
430  FOR B = 1 TO HD
440 Y =  INT ( RND ( PEEK (78) +  PEEK (79) * 256) * (HD + 1))
450  IF  NOT Y THEN 440
460  FOR C = 1 TO HD - 1
470  IF Y = D(C) THEN C = HD - 1: NEXT : GOTO 440
480  NEXT
490 D(B) = Y
500  NEXT
510  REM ----------
520  REM PRINT GRID
530  REM ----------
540  HOME : VTAB 12: INPUT "TURN PRINTER ON & PRESS <RETURN> ";A$
550  FOR D = 1 TO 10
560  FOR A = 1 TO 10
570 P(A,D) = A(A) * D(D)
580  NEXT
590  NEXT
600  PRINT D$;"PR#1"
620  HTAB 2: PRINT "X";
630  FOR X = 1 TO 10
640  PRINT  SPC( 2);:NUM$ =  STR$ (A(X)): GOSUB 1020
650  NEXT : PRINT
660  FOR D = 1 TO 10
670  FOR A = 1 TO 10
680  IF D(D) < 10 THEN  HTAB 2
681  IF D(D) > 9 THEN  HTAB 1
682  IF D(D) > 99 THEN  HTAB 0
690  IF A = 1 THEN  PRINT D(D);
700  PRINT  SPC( 2);:NUM$ =  STR$ (P(A,D)): GOSUB 1020
710  IF A = 10 THEN  PRINT
720  NEXT
730  NEXT
740  PRINT D$;"PR#0"
750  HOME : VTAB 12: PRINT "ANOTHER GRID? <Y><N>: < >";: HTAB 24: GET YN$:
      IF YN$ <  > "Y" AND YN$ <  > "N" THEN 750
760  IF YN$ = "Y" THEN  RUN
770  HOME : PRINT "BYE": END
1000  DIM P(HA,HD),A(HA),D(HD)
1010  RETURN
1020 NUM$ =  RIGHT$ (S$ + NUM$,4): PRINT NUM$;: RETURN
```

Mike Mitchell
Conroe, TX

(continued)

Circle 15 on Product Info Card.

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Circle 16 on Product Info Card.

MICRO IDEAS

MAKE A CREATURES FLIP BOOK

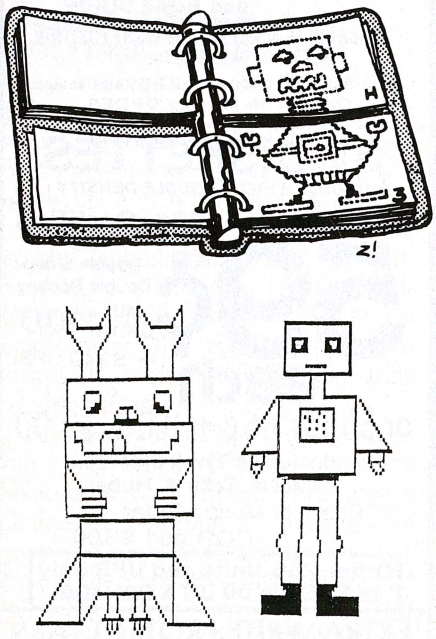
Using *Print Shop* with the file on *Print Shop Companion* called GRAPHIC EDITOR +, a group of students in my sixth grade class created a Creatures Flip Book that the entire elementary school now uses for creative writing projects.

The students divided themselves into two groups: one to design creature heads, the other to design creature bodies. The creature parts were then inserted into a four-ring binder notebook as shown (creature heads in the top two rings; bodies in the bottom two rings). Each head illustration was given a code letter and each body illustration a code number.

When they have free time, children borrow the book and "flip" through it, selecting a creature (a combination of a top and bottom) to describe or write a story about. Children indicate on their papers the creature that they have selected. A paper about the monster shown below, for example, would be labeled H3.

If your school does not own *Print Shop* software, this project will also work with creatures created from Logo or BASIC graphics.

Carolyn Mennen
Michigantown, IN



With just the flip of a page or two, kids can create many creatures.

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TEACHING and computers March 1987 *(Expires July 1)*

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c. ☐ Both of the above

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c. ☐ Approve purchase
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b. ☐ Educational Dealer
c. ☐ Catalog
d. ☐ Mass merchandiser

4. Do you recommend to students and parents?
Yes ☐ No ☐

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84
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133	134	135	136	137	138
139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150

TEACHING and computers March 1987 *(Expires July 1)*

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c. ☐ Catalog
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4. Do you recommend to students and parents?
Yes ☐ No ☐

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4. Do you recommend to students and parents?
Yes ☐ No ☐

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97	98	99	100	101	102
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109	110	111	112	113	114
115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126
127	128	129	130	131	132
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MICRO IDEAS

THE LOGO/RAINBOW CONNECTION

If you have a color monitor and Logo software, you can give your students a bit of ol' Irish folklore this St. Patrick's Day (March 17) in the form of a Logo program listing.

Load Logo into your computer. (The program below was designed for Krell Logo, but with slight alterations, should work with any version of Logo that you use.) Then type the program into the computer and save it on a blank diskette. Run the program. What you will see are the colors of the rainbow followed by a pot of gold at the end.

To accompany this program, you may want to read to your students an Irish folktale about a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. There are many. One good example is found in *At the Butt End of a Rainbow and Other Irish Tales* by Claire Warner Livesey (Harvey House, Inc; Irvington-on-Hudson, NY; 1970).

As a Logo programming challenge, see if children can make the nuggets of gold disappear one by one, just as they appeared. Advanced programmers might also try drawing arcs of rainbow colors across the screen to the pot.

```
TO RAINBOW
  REPEAT 3 [BG 0 BG 1 BG 2 BG 3 BG 4
BG 5]
  ARCL 1 180 PC 4
  RT 90
  REPEAT 3 [POLY 5 45 RT 15 PU FD 11
PD]
  REPEAT 10 [POLY 5 45 LT 11 PU FD 11
PD]
  REPEAT 14 [POLY 5 45 RT 9 PU BK 11
PD]
  POLY 5 45 LT 9 PU FD 11 PD
  PC 1 LT 50 FD 120 HT
  PR [LOOK! A POT OF THE GOLD AT
THE END]
  PR [OF THE RAINBOW -- JUST WHERE
IT BELONGS!]
END

TO ARCL :S :N
  REPEAT :N [BK :S LT 1]
END

TO POLY :S :A
  REPEAT 360/ :A [FD :S RT :A]
END
```

Marilyn Siegel
New York, NY■

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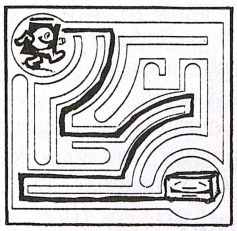
ADVERTISERS' INDEX TO FREE MATERIALS

Circle No.	Advertiser	Page
	Apple Computer	25-28
17	Assoc. Independent Micro Dealers	45
18	C & C Software	45
15	FCIC	45
21	Midwest Software	49
16	NPS	43
13	Random House	7
19	Scholastic/Bank Street Writer	CVR III
20	Scholastic/Talking Text Writer	CVR IV
11	Springboard	CVR II

ANSWERS TO POSTER WORKSHEETS

Primary #1: The pictures should be labeled, from left to right: video disc, floppy disk, hard disk.

Primary #2: Here is the completed maze:



Primary #3: The chart should be completed as follows: paper tape — 1900s, Mark I; magnetic tape reel — 1950s, UNIVAC; cassette tape — 1950s, Atari; hard disk —1960s, IBM System 36 (most large-capacity computers); floppy disk —1970s, most personal computers (Apple II, IBM PC, Commodore 64); laser videodisc — 1980s, personal computers (Apple II, etc).

(Other answers are possible; drawings will vary.)

Primary #4: Here is the riddle: Why are floppy disks good collectors? Because they like to SAVE things.

Magic Function Keys

If your students can recognize the letters and numbers on the computer keyboard, they have probably discovered that not every key *has* a letter or number. Some of the keys have words written on them; others have symbols, such as arrows. Learning about these special function keys and how to use them gives children a true sense of computer mastery.

Through the on-line and off-line activities in this month's column, children will be introduced to these special function keys and the different computer jobs, or "magic," they perform. These keys include the arrow, RETURN/ENTER, CAPS LOCK and SHIFT keys.

Teach children about these special keys and the "magical" computer functions they perform.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Turn on the computer and monitor and gather the children around them. Explain that they are about to meet some magic function keys that help the computer do special jobs when they are touched. First, however, they must know how the cursor on their computer works.

Introduce the cursor. Say, "A blinking cursor is a signal that the computer is ready for us to use. Maybe it wants us to type letters or to touch a magic function key. Do you want to see a cursor? Here it is on the screen *(point)*."

Some cursors are square, some are rectangular, and some look like a thick line. Familiarize the children with the cursor on their computer.

Then ask the children to look for the magic (special) function keys on the keyboard. Ask them to locate the SHIFT, CAPS LOCK, RETURN or ENTER, and arrow keys. Ask each child to touch each key while you say its name.

Preparation: Your classroom computer manual probably has a picture of the keyboard (usually found in the introductory pages). Using this picture or a similar one, make a print master of a letter and number keyboard like the one on your computer. Leave blank spaces or outlined spaces where the special function keys are located. Below the keyboard picture, draw and label the special function keys. Most computers have two SHIFT keys, four arrow keys, one CAPS LOCK key, and a RETURN or ENTER key. If your computer is different, make sure that the print master keyboard and keys match it. Leave plenty of room in the picture between the computer keyboard and the keys below so that the children can cut the keys out. Make a copy of this worksheet for each child.

Activity: Give each child a copy of the keyboard print master. Point out that the magic function keys are missing from the keyboard drawing and need to be placed in their proper spots. Ask the children to cut or tear out the keys at the bottom of the page (assist them if necessary) and paste them where they belong on the keyboard. Let them use the classroom computer as a reference.

ARROW KEYS

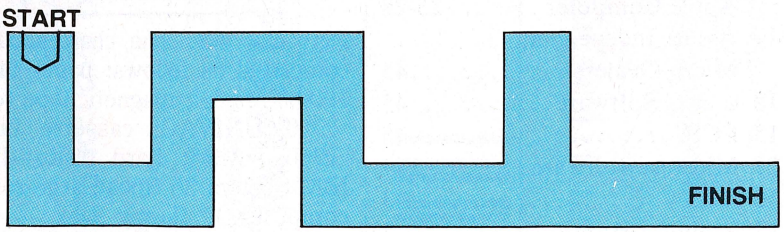
The following exercises will allow children to explore the arrow keys in greater detail.

Introduction: Tell the children this story:

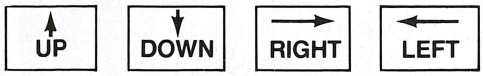
One day the cursor made a mistake and got lost on the monitor. It was very frightened! Finally, the cursor met a magician. The magician told the cursor that he would make some arrows that would help the cursor to move left, right, up, or down when it needed to find its way around the monitor.

Computer Activity: Gather the children around the classroom computer and point out the arrow keys. If you have a software program that requires the use of the arrow keys (a word processor is a good bet), run it and have the children take turns moving the cursor up, down, right, and left.

Off-line Activity: For each child, obtain four blank index cards. Label each card in a set with a different arrow direction: "up," "down," "left," or "right." Also mark each



INDEX CARDS:



Children take turns pretending to be a cursor in this classroom maze activity. Arrow key index cards help guide their way.

card with an arrow pointing in the direction written on the card. Use masking tape to make a maze on the floor of your classroom (see illustration, bottom left). Be sure to make the path wide enough for a child to walk in, and be sure to label the START and FINISH points. Let each child have a turn pretending to be a cursor. Tell the child to walk through the maze with the arrow cards. Each time the child changes direction to stay within the maze, he or she should hold up the corresponding arrow card. Seat students behind the child who is walking the maze and have them "follow" the movements of the human cursor by holding up their arrow cards, too. (Students must sit behind the cursor so that their directionality is the same as the cursor's.)

RETURN/ENTER KEY

Look carefully at your computer. Does it have a RETURN key or does it have an ENTER key? I will use the word RETURN in the following activities. If your computer has an ENTER key instead, be sure and substitute ENTER for RETURN throughout.

Introduction: Tell the children this story:

One day the computer told the magician that it had a hard time knowing when the children wanted it to go ahead and do what they had typed. The computer needed a magic function key that always meant, "I'm finished with my message, now it's your turn." The magician invented the RETURN key. The computer was so happy because now it had a way of knowing when it was time to do something.

Computer Activity: Show the children the RETURN key on your computer keyboard. Run any software that requires the use of the RETURN key, and have children take turns pressing it to see how the computer responds.

Off-line Activity: Hand out crayons and drawing paper, and tell the children to draw a picture of what happens in the computer's brain when the RETURN key is touched. The pictures will vary with each child's imagination. However, make sure that each child draws a RETURN key somewhere on the paper. Help label the key if the child cannot yet write letters. Some of the children may want to explain their drawings.

SHIFT KEYS

The activities in this section will first show how the SHIFT keys are used to type symbols that appear on the top row of the keyboard. Final activities show how the SHIFT keys are used to make uppercase letters. (The symbols on the number keys vary with each keyboard. The chart on this page indicates the symbols found on most computers in early childhood and kindergarten classrooms.)

Show the children the shift keys on your keyboard before beginning the following activities.

Introducing the Top Row of the Keyboard: Tell the children this story:

The magician tells us that if you drop something, it will always fall to the ground. That's why when you touch a key with two marks on it, you get what's on the bottom. How do you get the top mark? You get it by using the magic SHIFT key. When you touch the SHIFT key and the number 4, for example, you get a dollar sign instead of a number 4.

Computer Activity: Allow the children to practice typing numbers and symbols. To reinforce proper keyboarding technique, tell them: "Remember to hold the right SHIFT key down with the right pinky while you type with your left hand. When you type with your right hand, hold the left SHIFT down with the left pinky." Take as much time as necessary on this exercise for children to master the necessary coordination for using the shift key.

Off-line Activity: Make a print master of the symbols and numbers found on your classroom keyboard. Put the symbols on the top half of the paper and the numbers on the bottom half. Give one copy of the print master to each child. Tell the children to match the lower and upper sections of the paper by drawing a line from the number to the symbol that is above it on the computer keyboard. Let the children refer to the keyboard as needed.

SYMBOLS ON THE NUMBER KEYS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Apple II +	!	"	#	$	%	&	'	(	)	
Apple IIe, IIc	!	@	#	$	%	^	&	*	(	)
IBM-PC	!	@	#	$	%	^	&	*	(	)
TRS-80	!	"	#	$	%	&	'	(	)	
Commodore 64	!	"	#	$	%	&	'	(	)	

Different classroom computers have different symbols on their top row number keys.

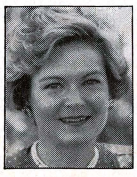
Introducing Uppercase Letters: If the children are not yet familiar with upper- and lowercase letters, now is the time to introduce them. Explain that each letter can be written in two ways, and show examples. Also explain that uppercase letters are used at the beginning of first and last names.

Computer Activity: Gather the children around the computer. Run a word processing program or any other program that will allow you to type upper- and lowercase letters. Show the children what happens when you press SHIFT while typing a letter. Type the letter again without pressing SHIFT. Have the children take turns typing a letter in upper- and lowercase.

Next show them how to use the CAPS LOCK key to type only uppercase letters, and how to release it when they want to go back to lowercase. Have them practice typing a series of letters, first using the CAPS LOCK key and then releasing it.

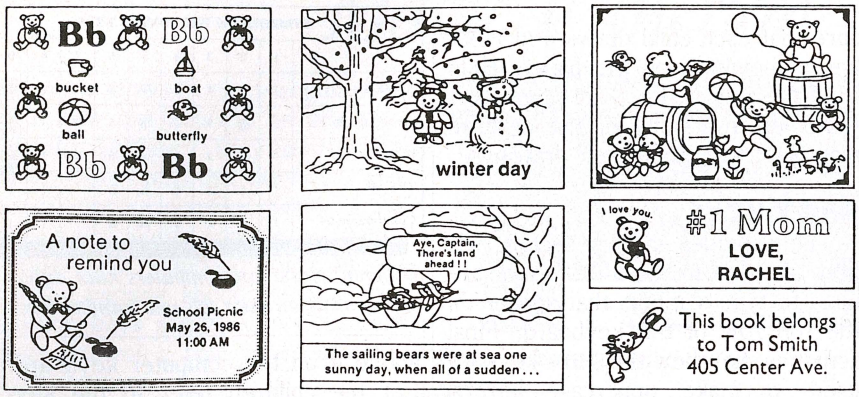
Off-line Activity: Write some upper- and lowercase letters on the board, and have the children copy these letters onto their own piece of paper. Then ask them to circle the letters that could only have been made on the computer by holding down the SHIFT or CAPS LOCK key. They should circle all the uppercase letters on their paper. ■

Trisha Ainsa is director of the "Computer Literacy in Children" Title VII project at the University of Texas at El Paso.



SOFTWARE SHOWCASE

SOFTWARE RECOMMENDED FOR TEACHERS, BY TEACHERS



Children can create all kinds of Teddy-Bear related art with the help of the Teddy Bear-rels of Fun *program. Above are seven examples.*

TEDDY BEAR-RELS OF FUN

Computer: Commodore 64, Apple II series
Topic: Graphics, language arts
Grade Level: 3–7

Students become Teddy Bear artists with this exploratory graphics program. It lets them create whimsical Teddy Bear scenes by selecting and arranging bear-related pictures and designs from a collection of stock art.

The program consists of two separate disks — an Art Shop disk and a Library disk. Each disk provides pieces of the "pre-fab" art. Using these disks, students are asked first to pick from a choice of backgrounds (such as a beach, lake, or picnic). Then they are asked to select a number of designs and pictures to fill in the background. These pieces of art are called "stick-ons" because children can move and place them on the screen using simple keystrokes. Stick-ons include all sizes of bears; clothes for the bears; outdoor props, such as a balloon and a beach umbrella; indoor props, such as a rug and a chair; and more. Students may use the word processing capabilities of the program to write their own captions and place them inside "stick-on" cartoon ballons or segmented blocks. Children may also title their work (selecting type from a variety of fonts), put a border around it, and print it out.

The documentation for this program is excellent. The user's guide reviews every program option and provides a quick reference guide to all available stick-on graphics. In addition, there is an activities booklet that provides an exhaustive list of uses for this program — uses for both inside and outside of school.

The design of the program is good. It is easy to understand and offers excellent use of graphics and color. A complete picture can be constructed in a short period of time, which is good. One really nice feature is the Electronic Show, which lets the user create a series of pictures on a data disk and then display them automatically, giving a moving pictures effect (albeit a rather limited one).

The content of this program is, as with many of the graphics programs that appear on the market today, lots of fun, but of questionable educational value. My guess is that the best use of *Teddy Bear-rels of Fun* would be in a language arts setting to stimulate creative thinking and writing, or in an art class to be used as a tool to make interesting, catchy signs.

The vocabulary used in this program is limited, but I believe a little difficult for any child under third grade. The Teddy Bear theme is certainly popular with kids, although children in middle school and beyond will probably find it too childish.

Price: $39.95
Policy: Six-month warranty; $15 backup
Source: DLM, One DLM Park, Allen, Texas 75002

Evelyn Woldman, Adjunct Faculty
Lesley College, Cambridge, MA
(Circle 27 on Product Info Card.)

DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

Computer: Apple II series
Topic: History
Grade Level: 5–8

You are standing on a sandy shore next to a man who is holding a handmade steel sword. There is a beached dory behind you. A flag with a green cross flies from a wooden stick that has been stuck in the sand. From these clues you must try to determine the event you are observing and the date it occurred. (*The event is Christopher Columbus's claiming of the New World for Spain. The date is 1492.)*

That's the goal of *Discovery and Exploration*, one of four programs in the Amercian History Explorer Series. Each program in the series consists of six or seven historic events that students must identify from a variety of clues.

The authors of *Discovery and Exploration* surveyed the top 12 North American history textbooks in grades five through eight to ensure that the topics they covered in this program were germane to the greatest number of students. Topics are: Columbus's voyage of 1492, LaSalle's Mississippi trip, the founding of Jamestown and Philadelphia, the pilgrims' first Thanksgiving, and the founding of Quebec.

As the program takes students to each historic scene, children use one- or two-word commands to examine objects and uncover clues about the scene's event and date. A reference sheet lists commands that the program will understand. For example, it will respond to the following: "Go North," "Examine Flag," "Read Diary," and "Listen." Sometimes persons involved in the event can provide clues. For example, if players type "Listen/Beach" when they are placed on the scene where Christopher Columbus is landing on the beach, they'll "hear" (a quotation appears on the screen) him claim the land for Spain.

Once players think they can identify the event and date, they press ESCAPE and enter their answers. They must also identify the signifi-

SOFTWARE SHOWCASE

cant clues that led to this conclusion.

Discovery and Exploration has two levels: beginning and advanced. In the beginning level, students list the event, date of event, and the clues that led them to their decision. In the advanced level, they complete the beginning level objectives and also answer and select the significant clues for three additional questions related to the event. These questions require deductive reasoning and possibly some outside research.

A classroom management system allows teachers to monitor records for up to 50 students. A STOP command lets students quit working and save their current progress.

Playing *Discovery and Exploration* is an exciting way to bring a real sense of exploration to history — something that simply memorizing history facts cannot do. This program will make a motivational and participatory difference for students. Warning: Some students will be turned into history buffs by this stimulating simulation. They'll ask for the other programs in the series!

Price: $39.95
Policy: Backup included; 30-day preview
Source: Mindscape Inc., 3444 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062; 312/480-7667

David Fiday, Media Director
Laraway District 70-C, Joliet IL
(Circle 26 on Product Info Card.)

Sneak past sentries in Robot Odyssey!

ROBOT ODYSSEY 1

Computer: Apple II series, IBM PC/PCjr, Tandy 1000, Compaq
Topic: Science, computer programming, robotics
Grade Level: 7 and up

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(continued)

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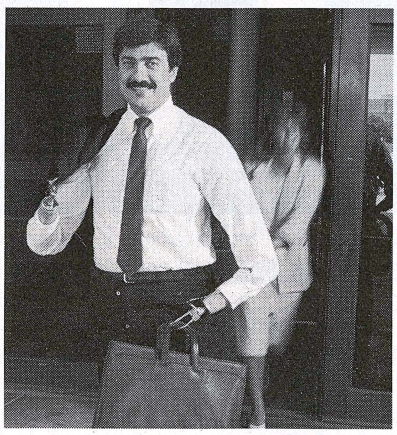

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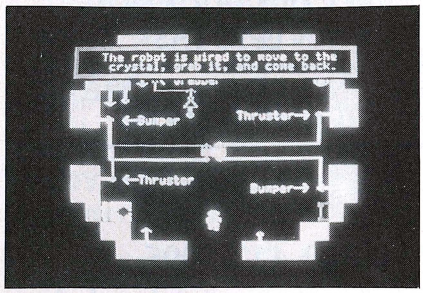
(continued from page 49)

morning and, instead of finding yourself on the floor, finding yourself in an underground city of robots. The only way out is by making maps and by programming three friendly robots to perform tasks for you like opening doors, sneaking past sentries, and picking up keys. Along your way, you confront mine fields, magnetic storms, secret rooms, and more.



Tour a robot's insides in Robot Odyssey.

Robot Odyssey 1 is the adventure simulation that you are playing, and Robotropolis is the name of the land that you have entered. As a user, you will progress (if you are lucky) through The Sewer, The Subway, The Town, The Master Control Center, and The Skyway. Each level is progressively more difficult than the one that precedes it. To obtain help from your robots, you must know what you want them to do, form hypotheses on how to make them do it, build models, test theories, and refine the theories you have made until they work. In the process, you build logic and problem-solving skills as well as learn about robot circuitry and programming.

Robot Odyssey 1 is a great educational tool that could keep many students on the edge of their seats for hours. Unfortunately, finding the amount of time needed to successfully play it in a classroom environment is next to impossible. Patience, a good attention span, a willingness to use the supplied 65-page manual, and at least two hours of playing time are all needed to make it through even the simplest level of the game.

I highly recommend *Robot Odyssey 1* to any junior high level or above after-school computer club. I also recommend it to parents in the market for educational software for the home. There are few circumstances, however, in which I would introduce this software into a regular classroom or computer lab environment. The time commitment necessary to play it, I am afraid, is just a bit too difficult for me to justify.

Price: $49.95

Policy: 30-day money back guarantee; 90-day warranty on the diskette. $15 for a backup. Afterward, $10 for a replacement.

Source: The Learning Company, 545 Middlefield Rd, Suite 170, Menlo Park CA 94025; 800/852-2255; 800/852-2256 (California)

Craig Dickinson, Teacher
Asa Adams School, Orono, ME
(Circle 25 on the Product Info Card.)

SOUND SOLUTIONS

Computer: Apple II series;
Topic: Math, problem solving
Grade Level: 6–8

Kids take their rock band out of the garage and into the big time in Sound Solutions.

Sound Solutions is a problem solving simulation in which a student or (preferably) a group of students are responsible for the progress of a band of musicians — from garage practice anonymity to super stardom. In order for the band to achieve super star status, students must solve a broad range of realistic managerial problems (three disks worth!). These problems range from planning travel routes and deciding which musical cuts should go on an album, to calculating profit from album sales and deciding how much to spend for the production of a music video. The problems exercise skills in the area of mathematical computation, as well as in visual acuity, perception, and pattern recognition.

At the beginning of each of the three program disks, one student is allowed to be the manager of the group, and can choose any one of four band members he or she would like to "be" (lead singer, drummer, and so on). This student will be the one to enter answers into the computer — starting with the name the band has chosen for itself. As students solve problem after problem correctly, the band's popularity and revenues grow.

Students will appreciate this program's snappy graphics and its use of a futuristic "videophone" to introduce each new problem. The program also offers such useful options as a calculator, problem reviewing, help screens, and tips for finding the solution. With the use of a separate management disk, the teacher may control difficulty, the review feature, sound and music, and several other functions. Progress for 30 students can be recorded on the disk.

The excellent documentation clearly describes each activity and defines any new vocabulary. It also includes worksheets that help students focus on problem solving by asking "what-if" questions that extend each problem beyond the present situation.

Overall, *Sound Solutions* is a great way to encourage the active participation of all students in the realm of problem solving. It is based on a sixth-grade skill level, but high ability fifth graders and hard-to-motivate seventh and eighth graders will benefit from it as well. The ideas and situations presented in the program are the stuff of fantasy for today's young music "freaks"!

Sound Solutions is just one program in a series of intriguing problem solving software called Mathematics Unlimited Problem Solving.

Price: $99 for one set; $150 for a "lab pack" set of five

Policy: Backup included; 30-day preview with purchase order

Source: Holt, Rinehart and Winston Software; 385 Madison Avenue, Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10017, 212/872-3900

David Fiday, Media Director
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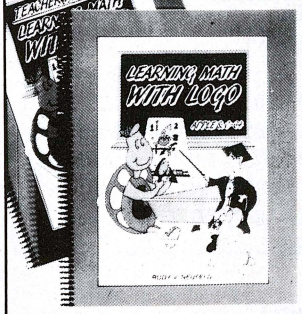

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Program Listing for The Mystery of Megan Watt

BY JOANNE DAVIS

(Continued from page 20.)

The program procedures used for the computer's role in the play, *The Mystery of Megan Watt,* page 16, were designed for use with Terrapin Logo. Load Terrapin Logo into your computer. READ "MUSIC from your Utilities Disk. Then type in the procedures below. Save them on a blank, formatted diskette under the file name MYSTERY.

```
TO TEASER
   PLAY [10 7 12 10 7] [60 40 30 90 90]
END

TO FUNNY
   PLAY [8 8 8 3 5 1 R 13] [30 30 30 60 60
60 60 30]
END

TO MYSTERY
   FRAME1 FRAME1A FRAME2 FRAME3
   FRAME4 FRAME5 FRAME6
   FRAME7 FRAME8 FRAME9
   FRAME10 FRAME11 FRAME12
END

TO FRAME1
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 5 10
   PR [THE MYSTERY OF MEGAN WATT]
   CURSOR 10 12
   PR [BY JOHN HEYWORTH]
   CURSOR 0 23
   PR RC
END

TO FRAME2
   CLEARTEXT
   NOISE
   CURSOR 10 10
   PR [IT DOES NOT COMPUTE.]
   CURSOR 0 23
   IF RC? STOP
   REPEAT 15 [ ]
   FRAME2
END

TO FRAME1A
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 13 10
   PR [CPU AT WORK.]
   CURSOR 0 23
   PR RC
END
TO BUZZ
   REPEAT 20 [.DEPOSIT 49200 0]
END

TO NOISE
   BUZZ PRINT1 CHAR 7
END

TO FRAME3
   CLEARTEXT
   NOISE REPEAT 15 [BUZZ]
   CURSOR 12 10
   PR [IT'S TEATIME.]
   CURSOR 2 12
   PR [AREN'T WE GOING TO TAKE A
BREAK NOW?]
   CURSOR 0 23
   CLEARINPUT
   PR RC
   CLEARTEXT
END
TO FRAME4
   CURSOR 6 6
   PR [SUDDENLY I FEEL VERY
SLEEPY. . .]
   CURSOR 10 10
   PR [YAWN - YAWN - YAWN.]
   PR []
   CURSOR 1 12
   PR [ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ]
   LULL1 IF RC? STOP
   FRAME4
END

TO FRAME5
   CLEARINPUT
   CLEARTEXT
   PLAY [13+] [200]
   CURSOR 5 10
   PR [YES? YES? CAN I HELP YOU?]
   CURSOR 0 23
   PR RC
   END

TO FRAME6
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 10 10
   PR [???? YOU GOT ME ????]
   CURSOR 1 12
   PR [I ONLY KNOW WHAT YOU TELL
ME, REMEMBER?]
   CURSOR 0 23
   PR RC
END

TO LULL1
   .GCOLL
   PLAY [5 5 8 5 5 8 5 8 13 12 10 10 8] [60
60 240 60 60 240 60 60 120 120 120 120 180]
   IF RC? STOP
   PLAY [3 5 6 3 3 5 6 3 6 12 10 8 12 13]
[60 60 120 240 120 120 180 120 120 60 120
240 300 240]
   IF RC? STOP
END

TO FRAME7
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 3 10
   PR [PLEASE! I NEED MY BEAUTY
REST!]
   CURSOR 1 12
   PR [ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZ. . .]
   LULL1 CLEARTEXT
   PR RC
END

TO FRAME8
   MAKE "C 1
   HT
   REPEAT 15 [PRINT1 CHAR 7 MAKE "C
:C + 1 BG :C IF :C > 5 THEN MAKE "C 1]
   TEXTSCREEN
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 10 10
   PR [NOT SO FAST, BATMAN.]
   CURSOR 0 23
   PR RC
END

TO FRAME9
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 5 10
   PR [IT WAS I WHO KILLED MEGAN
WATT.]
   CURSOR 0 23
   PR RC
END

TO FRAME10
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 2 10
   PR [WITH 10,000 VOLTS OF MY
ELECTRICITY.]
   CURSOR 0 23
   PR RC
END

TO FRAME11
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 1 10
   PR [YOU CALL THAT A JOKE!]
   CURSOR 2 12
   PR [IT WAS IN TERRIBLE TASTE. . .]
   CURSOR 7 14
   PR [. . .AND, IT WASN'T EVEN
FUNNY.]
   CURSOR 0 23
   PR RC
END

TO TEASE
   REPEAT 3 [TEASER]
END

TO FRAME12
   CLEARTEXT
   CURSOR 13 10
   PR [THE END]
   TEASE
   CURSOR 0 23
END
```

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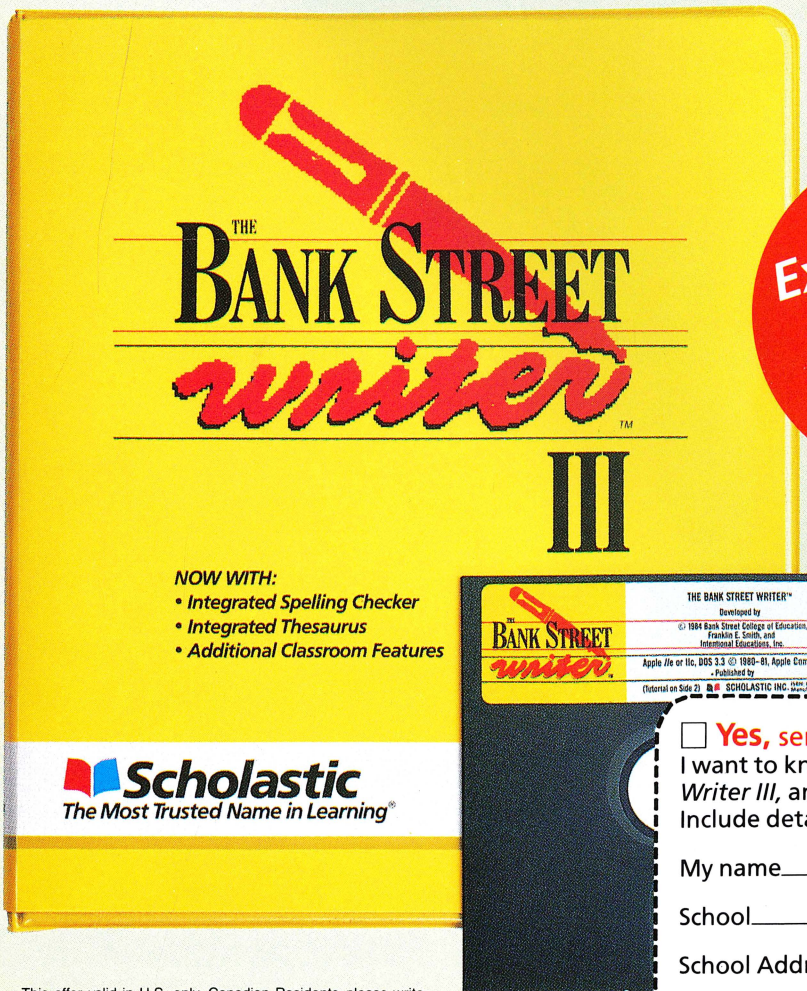

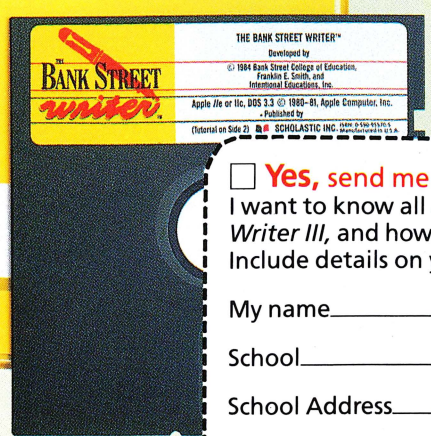

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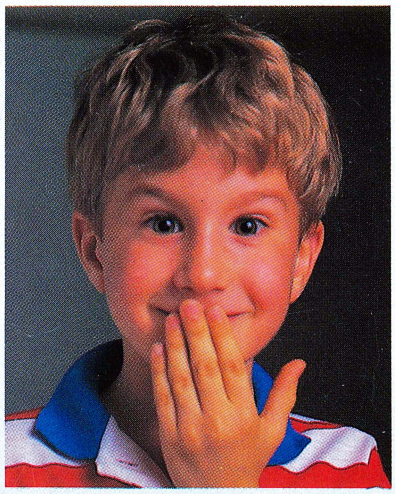

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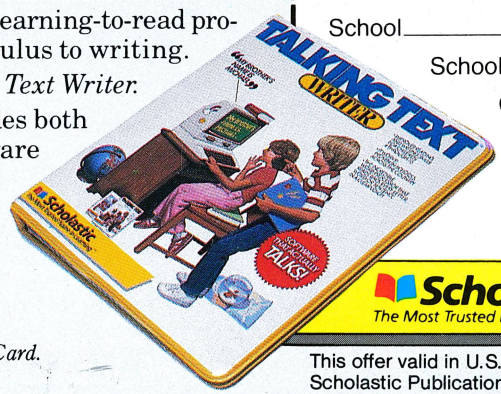

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